

# DisabilityNOW

£1.60 May 1999

The award  
winning  
newspaper  
for everyone  
with an interest  
in disability

## Experts to back force

The compulsory treatment of people with mental health problems outside hospitals should go ahead, a Government advisory committee has said.

But an independent body should also be set up to approve the use of forced treatment, and any new powers would have to be accompanied by new rights, it said.

The draft proposals by the Mental Health Act Review Expert Committee, set up to review the 1983 Mental Health Act, went out for informal consultation in April.

A report will go to ministers in July before further consultation on the Government's future mental health policy.

Melba Wilson, policy director at the mental health charity Mind, is worried by the proposals on compulsory treatment. "There is no indication or real evidence that increased

compulsion reduces risk," she said. "There is a clear message from professionals and users that compulsory treatment in the community will drive people away from services."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE, was more circumspect about the proposals.

"We need a new Act to reflect the fact that the vast majority of people with mental illness are no longer cared for in hospital," she said. "We need a modern framework in which law and services are working together, rather than in conflict, ensuring rights to care."

Speaking after the committee made its proposals, Health Minister John Hutton said: "Radical changes are needed to the three components in mental health care. We need greater investment, better care processes and up-to-date legislation. The Government is taking action in these areas."



A shore thing: disabled driver David Stephenson tries out a "Moon Buggy" four-wheel-drive vehicle on the seashore at Workington in Cumbria. The vehicle has been specially designed by local engineers Rodney Smith and Dr David Mellor to be disability-friendly on two fronts. It can accommodate a wheelchair – thus making areas like the nearby Lake District accessible to disabled people. And as it is virtually indestructible and can be operated by remote control, it can also be used to clear mines. The buggy currently costs £6,000, but the designers hope to bring the price down soon.

## Five die a day

At least five people die and seven are disabled every day due to poorly run stroke care in the NHS, a new report claims.

The findings come from a report by The Stroke Association, *Stroke care – a matter of chance*\*. It found that half of stroke patients did not have access to organised stroke services such as a stroke unit, with teams of mixed expertise, and families and carers being involved in rehabilitation.

The report's author, Professor Shah Ebrahim of the University of Bristol, said: "Around half of stroke patients are not getting the best care available. This means each year 7,000 stroke patients die or suffer disability that might have been avoided."

People in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales were twice as likely to be treated by stroke services as people in England.

Health Secretary Frank Dobson has said the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), launched in March, will look at new and existing treatments, including the speed with which people who have had strokes receive treatment, and issue guidelines for



Dobson: access to NHS for all

improvement. "For the first time in its history," he said, "the NHS has a body dedicated to ensuring that every NHS patient gets fair access to quality treatment."

The Stroke Association's Professor John Marshall said the report showed the Government's promises should now be urgently implemented.

The launch of NICE was clouded by claims from Age Concern that one in 20 people over the age of 65 have been refused treatment by the NHS.

A survey carried out for the charity by Gallup and launched

at the end of last month also suggests that as many as one in ten people who have turned 50 have noticed a change in the standard of NHS treatment they have received.

An Age Concern spokeswoman said the Labour Party in opposition had promised to conduct an audit of policies and practices in the NHS which might discriminate against older people. So Age Concern was now concerned to see that the new NHS Bill going through Parliament does not outlaw age discrimination.

The charity wants to collect examples over the rest of the year of ageism in the NHS – and of good practice – and is inviting the general public to contribute their experiences\*\*.

A dossier will then be presented to Government.

\*Free, on tel: 0845-303 3100.

\*\*For a free information pack on how to contribute your experiences, tel: 0345-009 966.

### Comfortable and Modern, the Fully Profiling and Adjustable Bed

#### COMFORT AND INDEPENDENCE

Extra Low Position for easier access • Sits-u-up & Stands-u-up  
Discreet Foldaway Twin Side Rails for support and safety  
Reliable Stability in every position • Accessories available



**BaKare**

BaKare Limited, Unit 17, Bell Park, Bell Close, Plympton, Plymouth PL7 4JH


**01752 34 22 22**

**CREDIT AVAILABLE** Written Quotations on Request. Subject to Status.



## A silver Ford Fiesta 1.1i is shown from a front-three-quarter view. The car is parked on a dark, reflective surface. The license plate reads '931 XJG'. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Notability**<sup>®</sup>  
TM  
Standard Charter No. 10036

the car in front is a  
 **TOYOTA**



## In brief

## Fit for a Princeton....

Marco Bristo, chairperson of America's National Council on Disability (NCD), the US equivalent of the UK's National Disability Council, joined students from Princeton University at a protest rally this month. Their anger was over the appointment of controversial academic Peter Singer to a distinguished ethics chair. Mr Singer has expressed the view that killing a disabled infant was not morally equivalent to killing "a person".

## ...or Bishop Auckland

Connie Norman, a wheelchair-using IT student at Bishop Auckland College, County Durham, has been closely involved in planning the college's new accessible reception and student resource area, which opens this week.

## Picture poster

A poster for DN's Freedom in Focus photography competition comes with every subscriber's copy of this issue. Please help us by displaying it in a prominent place.

## DisabilityNOW

<http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk>

Published by Scope

## EDITORIAL

**Editor** Mary Wilkinson  
**Assistant Editor** Peter Baber  
**Reporter** Rod Hermeston  
**Editorial/Administrative Assistant** Dan Batten  
**Production Editor** Damien Vessey  
 Scope, 6 Market Road  
 London N7 9PW  
 Editorial: 0171-619 7323  
 Fax: 0171-619 7331  
 Minicom: 0171-619 7332  
 E-mail: [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)

## CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Darke, Ann Darnbrough, Tanni Grey, David Griffiths, Marigold Hope, Rebecca Reynolds, Marion Stanton, Michael Turner

## ADVERTISING

**Advertising Manager** Richard Gresham  
 Tel: 0171-619 7336  
 Fax: 0171-619 7331

## CIRCULATION

**Circulation/Marketing Manager** Saira Khan  
**Circulation Officer** Patrick Durham-Matthews  
 Tel: 0171-619 7317

## TYPESETTING/PRINTING

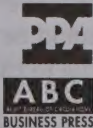
Voluntary Sector Services, Centurion Press Limited, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, Tel: (01923) 891000

## DISTRIBUTION

MMC, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR

ISSN 0958-4676  
 The views expressed in Disability Now are not necessarily those of Scope.

Copyright © 1999 Scope



# Dome jobs promise

Jobs for 160 disabled people are to be provided in the Millennium Dome as part of a new round of Government schemes to help disabled people keep or find work.

The Dome jobs will follow training provided by South London TEC, one of 14 successful bidders for a share

of £2.6m to help 1,000 disabled people on incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) into work. The money is part of the Government's £195m New Deal for Disabled People.

Meanwhile, new measures to help disabled people on IB and SDA came into effect in April

in 15 pilot areas, covering 300,000 disabled people.

The measures include allowing people to keep their IB for 15 days while trying out unpaid work and allowing them to earn £15 a week. Those leaving IB for part-time work will be entitled to £50 a week.

However, the Government has been criticised over its Welfare Reform and Pension Bill, which campaigners claim will lead to cuts of £750 a year to disability benefits and could undermine efforts to get disabled people into work.

The changes would mean that new claimants could only claim IB if they had paid National Insurance contributions in the two years before the claim.

Speaking before a lobby of Parliament by the umbrella organisation Disability Benefits Consortium, former minister Frank Field said: "If your health is breaking up it will pay



Frank Field: Rules warning

you to stop work as quickly as you can and claim incapacity benefit because it will be hard for you to earn a full insurance record in the last two years."

The Bill will also include changes to SDA and a means test for IB.

But Secretary of State for Social Security Alistair Darling said: "We are determined to bring the welfare state up to date and to help people who want to work, to work."

"Doing nothing is not an option," he added.



Self service: Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Grimsby, lends a hand at the opening of a 10-seater cafe in the town. The establishment is part of Ideas Place, a shop funded by the Government's New Deal for Disabled People scheme, announced last year.

## Anger over holiday cash offer

A disabled woman is furious after a travel agent who, she claims, wrongly assured her that her holiday was totally accessible, offered her only £25 when she complained.

Jean Barclay and a friend booked a £688 two-week stay in the Canary Islands by phone with Lincoln Holidays, in

Tyneside, a company they found on Teletext. Ms Barclay, who has multiple sclerosis, says she was assured that the hotel amenities were either on the same level or accessible by lift and that there was a taxi service to take her to the beach.

"But the first thing that confronted me was six flights of

stone steps," she told DN. Ms Barclay says she then discovered the amenities were on different levels, and that her room was in "the worst possible place".

The hotel eventually moved her, but only after she had paid an extra £15.

Ms Barclay, who is an occasional wheelchair user, admits

she could get up the stairs. "But my legs took an awful toll."

Lincoln Holidays offered her £25, but says the fault is with Sunset Holidays, the firm that ran the holiday. Sunset, in turn, blame Lincoln. A Lincoln spokesperson declined to comment because the matter was "still in hand".

### Freedom and Mobility with an ELAP rotating car seat

Now there's no need to dread that car journey. Let ELAP transform your life by providing the freedom and mobility our rotating car seat promises.

- Simply replaces your original car seat
- Specifically designed for 2 or 4 door vehicles
- Easy to install
- Original seat may be refitted when required



MAKES ENTERING AND LEAVING YOUR CAR EASY!



**ELAP**

ENGINEERING LIMITED Dept DN

Fort Street, Accrington, Lancashire BB5 1QG  
 Fax: 01254 389992 E-mail: [mail@elap.co.uk](mailto:mail@elap.co.uk) Web: [www.elap.co.uk](http://www.elap.co.uk)

TEL: 01254 871599 FOR MORE INFORMATION & FREE VIDEO

### AMAZING NEW PRICEGUIDE EXPOSES HUGE PRICE DIFFERENCES.

### ARE YOU ABOUT TO PAY FAR TOO MUCH FOR A MOBILITY PRODUCT ?

*"No-one should even consider buying a mobility product until they have read this remarkably revealing report and have compared our prices"*

You could end up saving hundreds of pounds on Scooters, Powerchairs, Bathlifts, Riser Armchairs, Adjustable Beds, Stairlifts and Wheelchairs with this Brand New Pricewatch PriceGuide from Mobility Matters, a group of independent showroom based distributors.

Incredibly, prices vary substantially depending on

where and how you buy and alarmingly, you could end up paying £100's more for exactly the same product. Don't make the mistake of paying way over the odds unnecessarily. The new PriceGuide explains what to look out for and provides you with realistic price ranges so you are less likely to get caught out. It's free and it's invaluable. You will be sent a copy from your closest distributor along with our popular advisory booklet for scooters and powerchairs which gives you the important questions to ask before committing yourself. Before you choose, read and learn.

Call the 24 hour request line now on 0990 134130

or write to  
 Mobility Matters,  
 Dept DN 5/99 Freepost  
 NH0170, Kettering NN14 6BR.





# 'Mercy' doctor guilty

Euthanasia leapt back into the headlines last month when Jack Kerkovian, perhaps the most famous – or infamous – “mercy killing” doctor, was convicted of second degree murder by a court in Michigan, USA. He will be sentenced this month.

Kerkovian is thought to have helped more than 130 people to commit suicide, and had already been acquitted three times.

This most recent case was different, however, because he himself administered the lethal injection that killed Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old man with a rare degenerative condition of the nervous system.

The judge had ruled that the notion that Mr Youk had consented to his death was not a legally acceptable defence.

Meanwhile, back in the UK, a doctor who ordered nurses to starve an 85-year-old woman to death after she had had a series of strokes was struck off the medical register for six months.

It was the first case of its kind to be heard by the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee.

The GMC accepted dozens of testimonials praising Dr Ken Taylor, but ruled that he erred in not seeking a second opinion or conducting a proper examination before giving instructions about Mary Ormerod.

Yet a Devon woman who admitted attempting to murder her husband, who had Parkinson's disease and dementia, was given two years' probation. Victoria and Timothy Wood were long-standing

members of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, and Mr Wood had written a “living will”, saying he did not want life-prolonging treatment in the event of serious illness.

## No fault

The mother of a nine-year-old boy with cerebral palsy failed in her attempt to win damages from a doctor she claimed had refused her an abortion.

Michelle Johnston said that Sheila Matthews, a committed Christian who is opposed to abortion, had refused to refer her for a termination in 1988 because she was “young and healthy” and, at 14 weeks pregnant, was “too late”.

But Mr Justice Allott said Dr Matthews had acted within the law and had not allowed her values to cloud her judgement.

- Two men from Hull who lost limbs in separate “train surfing” accidents when they were teenagers also had their claims for damages thrown out.

Anne Rafferty QC ruled that Andrew Scott and Michael Swainger knew the risks they were running by trying to jump onto a freight train.

## Pit case

A Government plan to compensate thousands of ex-miners for lung diseases caused by coal dust has been approved by the High Court. The 65,000



Moved by Monet: Members of the British Dyslexia Association's Youth Forum taking part in a Monet workshop run for them at the Royal Academy in London. The workshop, like the exhibition “Monet in the 20th Century”, was sponsored by Ernst and Young

miners could now receive payments of up to £50,000 each, once their medical histories have been taken into account.

The Government inherited the liability for the compensation from British Coal, which had previously fought such claims.

## Access

A total of 1,600 schools are to benefit from the first £20m of Government money that is being set aside to make schools more accessible.

All but one of the UK's 150 education authorities put in a bid for funding when

the programme was first announced in November.

Successful projects are likely to include installing ramps and lifts, and soundproofing classrooms in order to help children with impaired hearing.

Further funding of up to £100m is to be made available over the next two years.

## Diagnosis

Researchers at the Maudsley Hospital, south London, claim that up to 30,000 people in the UK could have been misdiagnosed as having epilepsy when they were, in fact, having seizures brought on by psychological conditions.

The researchers, who were conducting the first pilot study into the use of behavioural therapy to combat non-epileptic seizures, say that as a result people have been given unnecessary drugs that often have serious side-effects.

## Drug call

Keith Hellawell, the UK Anti-Drugs Coordinator, or “drugs tsar” as he is known, has backed the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes – thus supporting a long-running DN campaign.

In his evidence to the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, Mr Hellawell told the MPs that doctors should be able to prescribe the drug to ease pain and suffering, provided that the beneficial effects had been proven by research.



### YOUR PAIN STOPS HERE!

PainControl is an amazing low cost system for drug free relief of pain with superb TENS technology. It is safe, non-addictive, non-invasive, user-friendly, fits in a pocket or on your waist, and can be used anywhere. TENS is medically approved, having been used for over 20 years in the NHS.

Now available to you, PainControl effectively soothes away pain, helps back pain, sciatica, arthritis, menstrual and labour pains, post operative pains, and reduces tension – without the aid of drugs.

Switch on the magic of PainControl and feel the benefit.

30 day money back and 2 year guarantee.

**Tentercroft Healthcare**

*A family firm that cares for your health*

For details freephone: 0800 980 5477 now!  
Fax: 01924 405361

For DN readers the PainControl starts from £49.50  
Suppliers to hospitals and pain clinics.

Make getting out as easy  
as getting in...



...with Atlas  
estate cars and minibuses

Travel in safety and comfort. Choice of entry by ramp, hydraulic lift or lowering suspension. Specialists in Renault, Peugeot, Citroen, Fiat and Mercedes easy access and wheelchair accessible transport.



For advice and quotations call Joe Cordina or Jim Grieve

**01705 756265**



PRICES FROM  
ONLY £12,495+VAT

**Atlas**  
Conversions



# Move to bring brother home

The family of a learning disabled man is threatening legal action to get him home after kidnapping charges were dropped against two of his sisters in March.

Tony Roberts, who has learning and communication difficulties, is currently in the care of social services after being removed from his adopted family home by social workers following a police raid in November.

His adopted sisters Jeannette, 28, known as Gina, and Elizabeth, 30, had been charged with unlawfully taking Mr Roberts away from a social services' home in January.

Gina told DN: "We have been told he does not want to come home or to see us, but he would not be able to string those words together."

Robert Robinson, a solicitor acting for Gina Roberts and

another family member, hopes first to win the right for them to see Mr Roberts, and eventually to get him home.

Mr Robinson said: "We question whether social services is right to say that he does not want to return home but, in any case, it would not follow that he did not want to see any of his family."

Mr Robinson is looking for an independent expert to assess Mr Roberts.

But Ian Grant, Essex Social Services county manager, said: "We believe that it is his wish and in his interests to remain within our care."

Social services were carrying out a further assessment, Mr Grant said.

A man faces charges of ill treatment and assault, and four women are charged with cruelty, following the November raid.

# Driver's fresh blow

A disabled man whose car was stolen is having his benefits taken away by the scheme with which he had a contract hire agreement, because insurers will not pay up.

Geoffrey Perrins hired the car by paying his monthly £143 disability living allowance to

Motability Finance (MFL), the finance company behind the charity Motability.

But, because when the car was stolen in January 1998 Mr Perrins had left the keys in the ignition, the scheme's insurance company Royal & SunAlliance Motability has refused to cover

the loss. MFL has, therefore, continued to take Mr Perrins' benefits to recover its losses.

In a similar case last year, the insurance Ombudsman forced an insurer to pay up. But it cannot take up Mr Perrins' case because he was insured under a group agreement, and not as an individual.

Mr Perrins does not know what he can do.

"Okay, it was a mistake made in a fleeting second in the pouring rain, but as a result I've got no transport," he said. "I'm having to pay for my taxis and other travel and I'm not getting the money to do it."

A spokesman said that Motability was looking to see if there was any way it could help, but the charity agreed with the insurer's decision.



"Should we also tell him about the ticket for parking he's got?"

STEVE MORGAN

# New Labour, new deal

Disabled people can look forward to a new deal in the next century, Prime Minister Tony Blair has promised.

"There is the prospect for the 21st century of a different deal for disability for the new era," he told BBC disability affairs correspondent Peter White.

"With the right policies and the right type of understanding and vision amongst people

from every section of society, this is something we can really make happen."

The Government wanted to implement the Disability Discrimination Act "properly" and bring in a Disability Rights Commission, he said.

The interview was shown at an event for 500 people organised by The Employers' Forum and the Post Office last month.



More promises: Tony Blair

**HOLIDAYS OR SHORT BREAKS AT THE BARN OR GATEWAY COTTAGE**

**Gateway Cottage**

**The Barn:** thoughtfully designed, fully accessible flexible accommodation for up to 9 guests. Full board, care staff available.

**Gateway Cottage:** self-contained and offering self-catering accommodation for up to seven people. Fully accessible ground floor, living room, kitchen, large bathroom, one double and one single bedroom. Upstairs two twin rooms plus bathroom. All refurbished to a very high standard.

Set within 350 acres of beautiful and natural landscape looking towards the shores of Poole Harbour, within easy reach of Wareham, Bournemouth and the Isle of Purbeck.

For details: Holton Lee (DN/MAY), Freepost (BH1679), Poole, Dorset BH16 6JN  
Tel/Fax: (01202) 631063, E-mail: holton@lds.co.uk  
Visit our website: <http://www.lds.co.uk/holtonlee>

**The Barn**

**HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PERSONS**

**Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.**

**Flights to Tenerife, Lanzarote Malaga, Costa Almeria, Majorca, Algarve, Malta, Rhodes and Florida.**

**Weekend breaks - Paris, Dublin & Amsterdam.**

**Holiday homes in France.**

---

Please send a Brochure to: \_\_\_\_\_

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd,  
6, The Hillock, Astley, Lancs,  
M29 7GW. Tel: 01942 888844.

DN5/99

## Probably The Lowest Prices In The UK

Maybe we can relieve you of medical complaints such as emphysema, pneumonconiosis, varicose veins, swollen ankles, angina, stroke, arthritis, rheumatism, sciatica, spinal disorders, hip problems or many other chest and breathing problems, circulation problems, skeletal and muscular aches and pains.

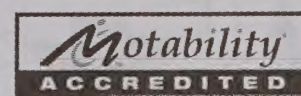
**Electrically operated chairs from £495**



**ICR MOBILITY** Incorporating The Armchair & Bed Centre  
a division of ICR (ENGINEERS) LTD

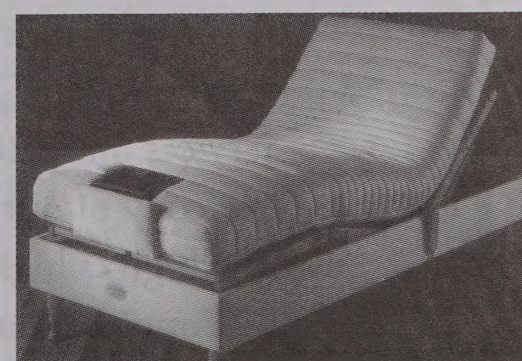
**FREEPHONE**  
**0800 13-69-21**  
for your FREE brochure NOW

**SOUTH WALES ONLY**

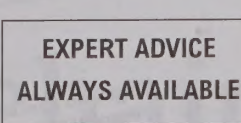


**SUPPLIER OF**

**WHEELCHAIRS AND SCOOTERS**



**Electrically operated beds from £695**



248 Penarth Road, Cardiff,  
South Glamorgan CF1 7TU  
Tel: (01222) 343484



# Threat to valued service

A disability campaigner in Yorkshire fears a valued home visiting service for disabled people is under threat because of limited funding.

John Brightman, a former county and district councillor, says he has had letters from six users full of praise for the

Rapid Response Team, but concerned about its future.

One older woman was particularly impressed when she called the team after her husband, who has dementia, fell suddenly ill. "The team were there in half an hour," Mr Brightman said. "Otherwise,

her husband would have had to go into hospital."

The Rapid Response Team, run by Wakefield and Pontefract Community Health NHS Trust, was set up last July, with funding guaranteed only until the beginning of April. Although the Trust has now extended the funding until June, it cannot guarantee funding beyond that.

"It is no good Frank Dobson saying he wants to cut hospital lists when they are winding up this service," said Mr Brightman. "It's not often that

people praise the NHS, but this is the best service there has been here for the past 30 years."

He acknowledged that such a service would be expensive to run. "But it is cutting down on hospital costs," he said.

A trust spokesman said it was negotiating with Wakefield Health Authority to try to identify further funding because the service had proved so popular. But funding had always been limited because it was part of a bid the two bodies had made for some of the Government's "winter pressure" funding.

## TESSAs signing on

Just as TESSAs are disappearing from the world of finance, so they are reappearing to help deaf people at post offices.

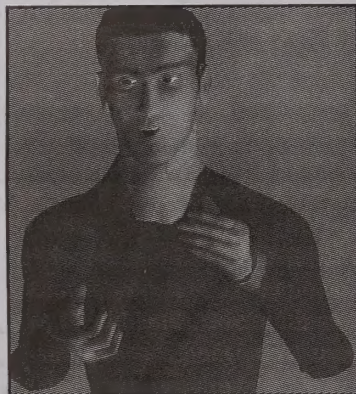
A system that translates speech into sign language and is known as TESSA (Text and Sign Support Assistant, as

opposed to Tax Exempt Special Savings Account, which the Government has abolished), is to go on trial in post offices this month.

The system recognises spoken English and translates it into British Sign Language (BSL). It will also produce the spoken words as text for people who are hearing impaired but do not use BSL.

A spokesman said the Post Office hoped the system would become more widespread, but at first it would be at only a couple of sites.

It was developed by the Post Office Future Technologies Group, the University of East Anglia and the communications company Televirtual.



Counter clerk: TESSA at work

## Day care charges spread

Lewisham has become the latest London borough to announce flat-rate charges for the use of day care centres for this financial year.

Campaigners took to the streets of Battersea last month after Wandsworth Council announced it was introducing charges of up to £5 per week cash in hand (see DN, April).

Now Lewisham is to introduce a flat levy of £2 a week for people with learning difficulties using its day centres. Local disability campaigners have beaten this down from an original proposal of £5.

But Elizabeth Young, chairman of Lewisham Mencap, said the charge was still a "tax on disability".

It was particularly harsh on parents and carers, because people in residential care homes would not be charged. "My son already pays £19 a week at the centre," she said. "This is on top of that."

Alma Dawson, whose son also has learning difficulties and attends a day centre in the borough, said that boroughs should not impose extra charges until central Government took account of them in the way they calculated disability benefits.


### GIVE YOURSELF THE FREEDOM YOU DESERVE



### ESCAPE TO A NEW LIFE WITH AN 'INDEPENDENT' CONVERSION FROM INTERBILITY

THE 'DRIVE-IN' MERCEDES INCLUDES RADIO CONTROLLED TAIL-GATE, FOLDING RAMP AND LOWERING SUSPENSION. AN IDEAL BASE FOR THE WHEELCHAIR DRIVER. ALTERNATIVELY, THE 'INDEPENDENT' PEUGEOT EXPERT, RENAULT TRAFIC OR FORD TRANSIT MAY SUIT YOUR NEEDS BETTER

WHY NOT PHONE FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT WITH RON OR BOB

 **Interbility**

UNIT 21 GUNNELS WOOD PARK STEVENAGE HERTS SG1 2BH  
TEL 01438 747448 FAX 01438 750319

## In brief

### Deaf to minorities

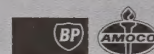
Wholesale reform of services is required to meet the needs of deaf children from ethnic minority groups, the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) says. The NDCS is completing a report pointing out that most services are almost exclusively in English. It has also set up a "language line", where callers say their telephone number and the language they want in English. The NDCS then rings back with a translator.

\*Open 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday (Tuesdays until 7pm), tel/textphone: 0171-250 0123.

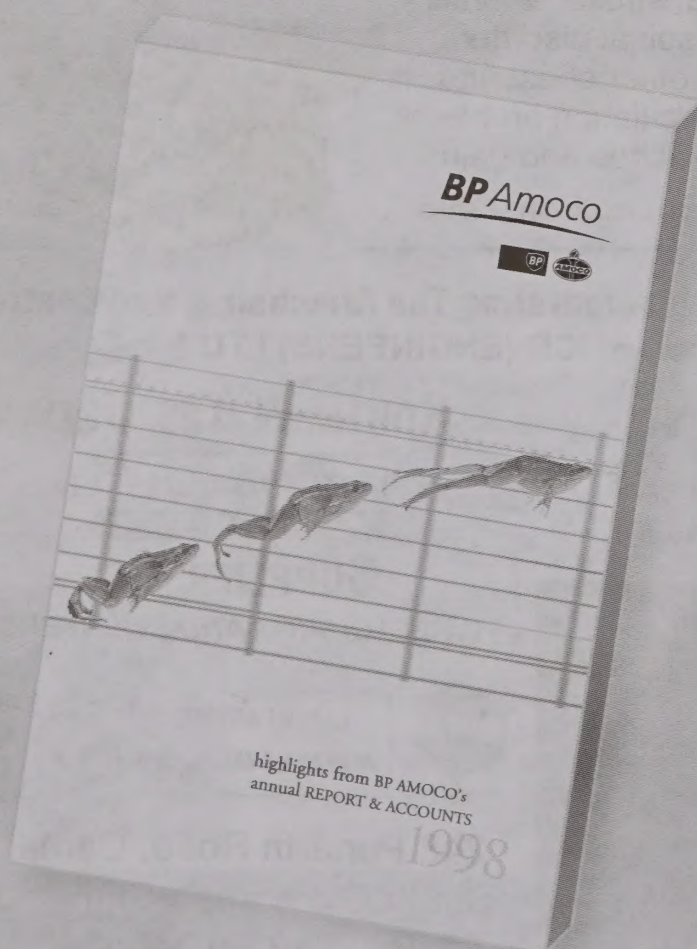
### Correction

DN has been asked to point out that while Anne Rae has resigned as chair of the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) (see DN, March), she is still a member of the education and international sub-committees.

**BP Amoco**



If you would like to learn more about BP Amoco p.l.c., please telephone our Distribution Services on 01202 244034 for a free copy of our audio cassette which gives highlights from BP Amoco's Annual Report 1998.





# Sounds of fury on car parking

A disabled man is angry that the Royal Opera House (ROH) in London will have no disabled parking spaces of its own when it reopens.

Wheelchair-user Roger Elliott and his wife Lucy, who is also



Sour note: Roger Elliott

disabled, say they have not been to the opera house before because of parking problems.

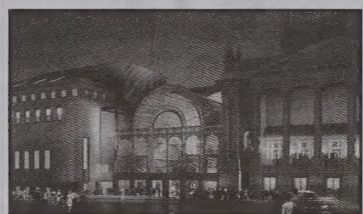
They had hoped the situation might improve when the building was refurbished.

But there will be no dedicated parking spaces for disabled Opera House customers when the venue reopens in December.

Jane Blackburn, project manager responsible for disabled access at the ROH, said the organisation was working with Westminster City Council on the problem and there would be seven new orange badge parking spaces near the ROH, as well as drop-off points at the front of the building. Overall access would be much better, she added.

But a council spokesman said the new disabled parking spaces would not be specifically for opera-goers. "But they should result in a significant improvement in disabled parking in the area," he said.

Mr Elliott says the spaces might be abused. "It is pathetic," he said. "We have enough problem with people hogging spaces in supermarkets."



Royal Opera House: reopening

# Study rules unfair

A day care centre in Yorkshire has been ordered to pay a dyslexic former staff member £2,250 in compensation after an employment tribunal ruled that it had discriminated against her in not allowing her an extra five days study leave.

In what is believed to be the first case of its kind, Sheffield Employment Tribunal rejected Thorne House Services' argument that Hull University was to blame for discrimination against Angela Cook.

The centre, in Goole, Humberside, had claimed that the college should have given Ms Cook extra time to finish a

long assignment that was part of her part-time diploma course in social work.

Thorne House's contract allows staff to take study leave, and the tribunal agreed that this was adequate for any employee who did not have a learning disability. It also accepted that there had been no problems with other staff in the past.

But it ruled that a training arrangement that allowed limited extra time off for study placed a disabled person at a disadvantage compared with people who were not disabled. Zem Rodaway, from the

Humberside Law Centre, who represented Ms Cook at the hearing, said the case was important because Ms Cook's course was relevant to her at work.

"Many disabled people are still unaware of their rights to support and adjustments in the workplace under the Disability Discrimination Act," she said.

Ms Cook told DN she was happy with the result because "there aren't a lot of strong test cases at the moment."

"Employers in particular don't see dyslexia as a disability," Ms Cook added.

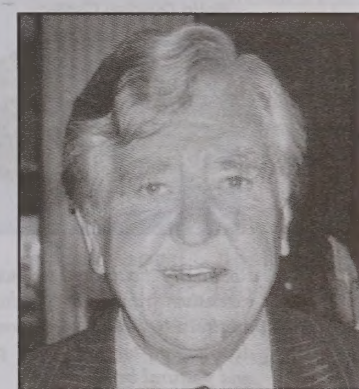
# Awards for being 'on message'

Household names such as B&Q, Midland Bank and the Benefits Agency were among the eight winners of this year's Getting the Message Across Awards, presented by Lord Morris, who was Britain's first minister for disabled people.

The awards, run by the National Information Forum charity, celebrate innovative ideas for getting information to disabled people.

B&Q's improved customer and information services for disabled people in its new Norwich warehouse (see DN, January) set "a challenging example to other large organisations," said the judges.

Midland Bank's LifeWorks advice and information service was of "particular benefit" to disabled employees, while the Benefits Agency's simplified leaflets were praised.



Presentation: Lord Morris

# Freedom, Independence and Reliability.

## Powerchairs promise you:

- A caring service from a family run business.
- Unique price guarantee that you can't buy cheaper anywhere.
- Up to 8mph for road use.
- Free home assessments.
- Free 12 months insurance on new models.
- No VAT.
- No driving license required.
- Low deposit finance available on request.

- We stock machines that carry up to 32 stone and can go from 10-35 miles on one charge
- Automatic battery charge included.
- All major credit cards accepted.

We buy second-hand electric wheelchairs and scooters.

100s of nearly new machines in stock at prices to suit all pockets.

Part exchanges welcome.



For further help and advice FREEPHONE

0800 0746834

# PowerchairS

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS



# Sport joins mainstream

Disability sport is to be included in the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

The organisers claim this is the first time integration has happened in such an event.

Eight sports for disabled athletes will be integrated into the main games, due to be chosen from a list of 12 by the Commonwealth Games Board

and the International Paralympic Committee.

Simon Ashley, leader of Manchester City Council Liberal Democrats and a Board member, said: "Disability sport will be integrated into the programme, not tagged on at the end. We think that this is the first time it has happened in any major sporting event."



Slice of the action: the new Commonwealth Games stadium

# Star's charity role

Former soap star and wheelchair user Julie Fernandez is developing a charity offering support to disabled people.

Ms Fernandez, who starred in the tv soap *Eldorado*, has been working on The Disability Foundation (TDF), based at the Edgware Hospital, Middlesex, since November.

The organisation provides free information on disability and benefits. It also offers complementary therapies.

Ms Fernandez told DN the organisation is currently applying for registered charity status. New premises would create a one-stop local shop on disability.

Ms Fernandez, who is executive manager, said: "As far as I know, there is nothing in England offering everything that we will offer under one roof."

TDF, tel: 0181-952 5410

# Care pay failings exposed

Local authorities that bar people with learning disabilities from receiving cash to pay for their own care could face legal challenge, a report warns.

The report, *Pointers to Control*, from campaigning group Values into Action, says local authorities have been slow to develop schemes for people with learning disabilities.

Some put more effort into stopping people getting the payments than into helping them to do so.

Richard Kramer, head of campaigns for the learning disabilities charity Mencap, said: "All local authorities should bring in schemes. Through direct payments, people with learning disabilities have gained confidence, control and new skills."

He welcomed Government plans that might make the schemes compulsory.

Free summary available from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, tel: (01904) 615905.



## Scandinavian Mobility The Complete Range

### Pressure Area Care

RoHo Quadro Cushion



RoHo dry floatation technology - an extensive range of cushions and mattresses offering optimum pressure distribution together with positioning and postural benefits

### Freedom

Husky Power Chair



Rugged construction & chunky tyres cope easily with uneven ground; anti-tip wheels and articulated suspension give stability

### Adaptability

Spectra Children's Power Chair



Children's power chairs specially designed to grow with the child, fully adjustable, with easy to use controls

### Independence

Rea Comfort Manual Chair



User tilt and recline together with padded seat and back give comfort and support for the more active

### Practicality

Helix H9 Manual Chair



Lightweight manual chair with smart painted frame

- ◆ Stylish Power Chairs
- ◆ Supportive Profiling Beds
- ◆ Lightweight Manual Chairs
- ◆ Pressure Relief Cushions
- ◆ Pressure Relief Mattresses
- ◆ Adaptable Children's Chairs

### Quality of Life

Profiling Bed & Therapeutic Mattress



Modern profiling beds give support when needed, and offer high levels of comfort

### Value for Money

Corbie Power Chair



Modern bodywork styling, with rear wheel drive for great manoeuvrability

### Comfort

Assist Manual Chair



Carers multi-adjustable tilt and recline chair with wide range of options. Unique shaped backrest for support

Call **Freephone 0800 136275** or post the coupon today to discover more about our range. Please send details of: Manual Chairs ☐ Mattresses ☐ RoHo Seating Systems ☐ Power Chairs ☐ Beds ☐

Name .....

Tel .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

DN 5/99



**SCANDINAVIAN MOBILITY**

Scandinavian Mobility UK Limited

Unit C Tyson Courtyard

Weldon South Industrial Estate

Corby Northants NN18 8AZ

Tel 01536 272200 Fax 01536 272201



# Brits' big splash

Britain's visually impaired swimmers topped the table with 28 gold medals at the International Blind Swimming Association European (short course) championships.

And the British team took 13 world records, with Tim Reddish, from Nottingham, and Warwickshire's Melanie Easter nabbing five apiece. The

buoyant Brits left all in their wake, with nearest rivals Spain managing only 19 golds.

Reddish, who is 42, has pledged that he will keep going, which could be bad news for his nearest rival, an 18-year-old Spaniard.

"It is a positive indication of the way the training programme is going," he said. "I

want to get better and faster for the long-course European championships that take place in August."

Meanwhile, Elaine Barrett of Middlesex took three world records, while nine times paralympic gold medallist Chris Holmes also returned to form, with golds in the 50m freestyle and the 50m breaststroke.

## Driver in the pits over medical

DN-sponsored rally driver Paul Hannam is angry that he will have to undergo a medical examination to take part in certain races in Europe.

Mr Hannam needs a higher level national racing licence than his current one in order to compete in other European Union countries.

He needs to take part in only one more rally to obtain the National A licence. But it will be marked "UK only" unless he has the medical.

He said: "Why should I have to have a medical? I am taking part in races now and we are beating able-bodied competitors with superior cars."

But a spokesman for the Motor Sports Association, which issues UK licences, said the international rules were outside its control.

Mr Hannam's form speaks for itself. He was leading his class in the Welsh Tarmacadam Championships before he and co-driver Damon Allen crashed out of one of its stages, the Tour of Caerwent.

Mr Hannam said: "We were okay but the car came off pretty badly so we are in the process of repairing it."

It means that he will miss at least two stages of the championships.

"It should not have too much effect," he said. "There are 12 rounds but only eight count, so we can drop four events without any problem."



Road rage: Paul Hannam has more than proved his racing ability, so why, he asks, should he have to undergo a medical test?

SOUTH WALES ECHO

## Team talk

Tanni Grey

## The glitter and the glamour



Do you ever feel you're in the wrong job?

The life of a sports person is very boring. The hours spent training far outnumber those spent competing, and this is why I feel I am somehow misplaced. Perhaps I should have been a Miss World contestant?

I have just come back from my first major race of the season, a glorious two-and-a-half days in Florida. I didn't quite spend more time travelling than being there, but it was close.

To make sure everything goes as smoothly as possible (and because of all the equipment I need) I have to be at the airport very early: 4am in this case for an 8.30am flight. Two plane changes later, I arrive in Tampa feeling groggy and filthy: these are the real joys of it all.

You know something is going wrong when you are the last person waiting at the carousel for your luggage. Luckily my racing chair arrived, but there was no sign of my racing

wheels, racing kit, and, least important, my clothes.

I don't worry as long as my chair arrives and I've got my essentials in my hand luggage: travel insurance and credit cards can take care of the rest.

At least it proved a talking point until the airline found my possessions. Apparently Tampa is very much like Oregon, which is where they ended up.

But this wasn't too bad compared with the experiences of a friend who decided to compete in a marathon a month, and ended up writing some amusing articles about it.

The humour revolved around wrong hotels, lost money, delayed flights, broken chairs and a series of total disasters.

So if it's a glamorous lifestyle you're after, it might be better to marry a millionaire. Anyone know where I can find one?

*Wheelchair racing athlete Tanni Grey is a paralympic gold medalist.*

## CHARTWELL INSURANCE

DISABLED DRIVER INSURANCE BUREAU

Established Over 30 Years

Competitive rates for motor and household insurance. Cover also arranged for powerchairs, wheelchairs and scooters.

Accidental damage, fire, theft, public liability and mechanical breakdown cover for £100.

For a no obligation quote contact us on:

**0181 - 958 0900**

Chartwell House, 292-294 Hale Lane, Edgware, Middx HA8 8NP

Creating opportunities with disabled people

## LEONARD CHESHIRE



domiciliary support independent living toy library  
holidays respite support day services specialist  
head injuries unit transport services mobile day  
service counselling student hostel leisure project  
employment support independent living  
domiciliary support toy library holidays transport

# wherever you live

Contact The Information Officer on 0171 802 8200



# A new agenda with devolution

Devolved government in Scotland and Wales could lead to improvements for disabled people who live there, Rod Hermeston discovers

With elections to the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly taking place on 6 May, DN has asked the political parties to give a flavour of

what they would do for disabled people.

In both elections new voting systems may mean parties working together more closely

and more often. Both bodies will begin work in May and will have new accessible buildings for disabled people by the year 2001.

The UK's Labour Government is keen to point out that UK-wide policies such as strengthening disability access through the Disability

Discrimination Act and introducing a Disability Rights Commission will continue.

But what will be happening in the two new legislative bodies?

## The Welsh foreword

The Welsh Assembly will have 60 members. Its powers in provision and funding will be similar to those currently held by the Secretary of State for Wales, and will cover local government, education, planning, social services and health and business support organisations, such as the Welsh Development Agency.

It will not have law-making or tax-varying powers, and will be funded from a Treasury grant totalling around £7bn.

But it will have delegated responsibility to decide how laws are to operate.

### Wales Labour Party

It has promised it will:

- Establish a committee in the assembly to monitor progress in promoting equal opportunities



• Appoint a member of the Welsh "cabinet" to promote equal opportunities across the range of services provided or funded by the assembly

• Alun Michael (right), Secretary of State for Wales, said his party "will ensure that combating discrimination will be given a high profile in Wales"

### Plaid Cymru

It has said it will:

- Promote equal opportunities in the assembly and agencies working for it
- Encourage fair charging by local government
- Promote more accessible housing, buildings and public transport
- Party president Dafydd Wigley, who has already spon-



sored a number of civil rights bills for disabled people (right), said:

"We have a very strong commitment to disability. We have already been pressing for adequate access to the Welsh Assembly building."

### Welsh Conservative Party

It is promising:

Uniform care for all, equal throughout Wales with health and social care established as a priority

### Liberal Democrats Wales

Its programme is to:

- Set up a committee to monitor the assembly's progress on equal opportunities
- Establish guidelines for local councils on tackling inequalities in community care charging.
- Promote accessible housing, buildings and polling stations.



## Scottish mist rises

The elected Scottish government, formed from a 129-member Scottish Parliament will have devolved powers for health, education, training, local government, social work, housing, transport, and the environment.

It will have law-making powers and be able to raise or lower the basic level of income tax by up to 3p.

### Scottish Labour Party

It has

promised to:

- Improve access to transport and accessible housing
  - Set up an equalities committee in the Parliament to check the effect on equality of every piece of legislation
- Scottish National Party**
- Its commitments include plans to:
- Freeze the basic rate of income tax at 23p in the pound to free £690m to spend on health, education and housing



- Support the proposed equality committee
- Introduce a nationally funded concessionary fares scheme for public transport
- Introduce an Incapable Adults Bill in the Parliament's first term
- Appoint a minister for equality, although it is not yet clear how much seniority he or she would have

### Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

It wants to:

- Set up a Disability Task Force in the Scottish Parliament to promote access
- Appoint a minister for disabled people

### Scottish Liberal Democrats

It promises to:

- Introduce a council tax rebate system for all homes built or adapted to high access standards
- Introduce an Incapable Adults Bill, as a framework for running the affairs of mentally incapacitated people.

NEW

## KEEPING THE DREAMS ALIVE

### The Landeez



Get close to nature with this all terrain wheelchair. Access the beach, over shingle, nature trails, mud & snow. A rugged stainless steel frame gives you the choice, beach, BBQ, picnic or restaurant with change to street wheels. Reduces damage to lawned areas, gravel pathways.

### Transfer Care Chair



The new Transfer Care Chair - a totally new lifting concept. Easy to operate, its unique lifting system deals with different heights in beds or bathrooms, and transfers into a car. Very small where space is limited. Folds for storage or transport.

### Suprema



One of the most compact indoor powerchairs for freedom at all levels in a room, home or office. Raise, lower, slide or tilt, the seat models gives a wide choice of comfort and access options. Turns on its own small space. Models for all budgets and needs.

For a no obligation demonstration, literature or further information on these, or any of our products, contact:

## Wheelchair Corporation Limited

Inc Moor House  
Chelmarsh, Bridgnorth  
Shropshire WV16 6AZ

tel: (01746) 861940 Fax: (01746) 862085

## London Borough of Brent



**Anam** (10/01/97) is diagnosed as having global development delay, microcephaly and epilepsy, although she hasn't had a major fit since January 1998. She has no sight, but it isn't known whether she can distinguish between light and dark. Her general health is good. Although not mobile, **Anam** is able to move her hands and legs. She's very passive, but will sometimes respond to loud noises. She sleeps for long periods of the day, and is often at her most responsive at about eight or nine in the evening. **Anam** can express her contentment with a facial expression rather than actually smiling. She's been with her current foster carers since December 1997, and doesn't exhibit any behavioural difficulties.

**Anam's** of Asian (Pakistani) parentage, and needs a family to meet all her needs. She'd benefit from being the youngest in a stimulating environment. Due to her major care needs, we're looking for a two-parent family, but will also consider single applicants. An adoption allowance has been agreed in principle. It is envisaged that there will be indirect contact with her birth parents and an older sister.

Please contact Funmi Adetilo at  
Brent Family Placement 0181-937 4539



# Naidex

The National Independent Lifestyle Show

**18-20 May 1999**

**NEC** Birmingham, Hall 1

it's **all** about

# Quality

of life...

**Naidex 1999 is the UK's leading exhibition for disabled and older people**

Whether you are looking for mobility equipment, household aids, or personal care products, Naidex will show you the latest innovations in equipment and services for getting the best out of life.

Experience for yourself:

- Free Seminars
- New Product Showcase
- Mobility Test Track
- Demonstration Area
- Test Drive Adapted Vehicles (bring your driving licence)

Key industry supporters



Media sponsor

**The Guardian**

For fast track entry, pre-register on our website at **www.naidex.co.uk** or call now for further information and advance free tickets on **01203 426 520** or fax this coupon to **01203 426 521**

Please send me: ☐ (no.) free tickets and full information on NAIDEX 1999

☐ details on exhibiting at NAIDEX 1999

Please print clearly using BLOCK CAPITALS:

MR/MRS/MS:

INITIAL:

SURNAME:

JOB TITLE (if applicable)

COMPANY (if applicable):

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

TELEPHONE:

FAX:

EMAIL:

Return to: NAIDEX 1999, CTS, Data House, Curriers Close, Coventry, CV4 8AW.

DN 5/99



# From Barclays to Beijing

Award-winning travel journalist Simon Minty tells Dan Batten about his journey from banking to broadcasting

If you think of the names of television travel journalists the ones most likely to come up are presenters like Judith Chalmers and Jill Dando. But what about the name Simon Minty?

Simon is not a household name at the moment, but this may change over the next few years. He has just won the award for best television feature at this year's Travelex Travel Writers Awards for an "artful, literate and entertaining" account of his travels through Beijing in Channel 4's *Travelog* series. He was also commended for looking at less common areas of the country.

Simon, 30, who is of restricted growth, says he was embarrassed at first by his nomination, but having explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes present him with his award and a cheque for £500 in an "Oscar-like" atmosphere made for a memorable day.

He has not always been involved with tv. He first worked as a business communications trainer for Barclays Bank for seven years. He is now a disability awareness trainer, too – when not jetting away from his north London flat.

He feels only disabled people can give disability awareness training because of their personal experience. He says his years with Barclays have stood him in good stead. "They were more interested in the skills of training than the subject. Once you have trained, it was up to you how you chose to employ those skills. The experience I have gained since then helps my work now though."

At 25, Simon took a year's sabbatical from the bank and spent six months travelling. During this time, he became involved in many artistic activities, including writing and performing, sometimes with disabled people. He soon decided to swap balance sheets in favour of balanced reporting and finished at Barclays.

After leaving the bank, Simon did "plenty of networking" and got to know a number of people in television, particularly at Channel 4. He has had no formal media training but "did a lot of groundwork, including assistant producing and research". But, he observes: "Sadly, the old notion that it's not what you know, but whom



Simon Minty is now branching out into comedy writing

you know still holds true."

There are still only a few courses offering disabled people career opportunities in the media, he says.

Reactions to his disability vary in different countries. Britain fares remarkably well. "Here I will be looked at and acknowledged, but that's it." However, this was not the case in China, where he was stopped and questioned "about five times a day". He is fascinated by South East Asia, but thinks China has much to learn in the area of disability awareness.

He praises the access disabled people get to many goods and services in America through the Americans with Disabilities Act. But he has reservations about American attitudes to disabled people, and says he is not sure whether the Disability Discrimination Act will benefit disabled people in Britain.

He laughs at the idea that he has suddenly "exploded" into the public eye, and finds the idea of his being "the voice of people with restricted growth" equally amusing.

Simon believes the treatment of disabled people in the media could be improved, despite some good ideas.

He cites his recent contribution to the Channel 4 show about a troupe of short strippers, *The Half Monty*, as an example. He had seen a "radically different" edit of the show to the one broadcast, which he liked. The final one was "voyeuristic" and not what was intended, he says.

Simon has also managed an alternative comedian, the "severely able-bodied" Steve Best, with whom he has written a show, *Yes Sir, I Can Boogie*.

Given that the world of stand-up comedy is notoriously un-PC, did he find any hostility aimed towards him as a person of restricted growth? "As Steve is on the alternative circuit, sexist, racist and disablist gags weren't present," he insists. "And my confidence in managing Steve meant I didn't have any hassles."

As to the future, Simon wants "to do something on the back of winning the award", and is in discussions with the Travelog company. "I have no firm travel plans, but would like to see Indonesia," he confides.

Anything on a local scale then, being a fellow north Londoner? "Yes, trying to avoid you in the local pub!"

*Yes Sir I Can Boogie starts on 13 May at 11pm on Radio 4.*

## CARONY

### THE ULTIMATE IN-CAR WHEELCHAIR SYSTEM

- *Install a CARONY wheelchair system and your new car is VAT exempt !*
- *Transfer into car without leaving seat !*
- *Good postural supporting seat !*
- *No lifting required !*
- *Manual / Electric !*
- *And dignified !*



Crash tested  
&  
Approved !

### Approved Installation Centres

London / Home Counties - Steering Developments . - 01442 212918  
South West - Adaptacar - 01769 572785  
Midlands - B.R.Mobility - 01926 451545  
North West - Mobility Conversions - 0161 745 9737  
North East - K. C. Mobility - 01924 442386  
Scotland - Scotmobility - 01592 770204

**Please call for further information or demonstration.**

### DO YOU REQUIRE LEGAL ADVICE OR ASSISTANCE?

We are a leading firm of Solicitors specialising in providing legal assistance to disabled people, children and students in the following areas:

- Education Law (including Special Educational Needs)
- Community Care Law
- Disability Discrimination Act Claims
- Local Government/Public Law
- Personal Injury/Medical Negligence Claims
- Health Law

We also Specialise in other areas of law including:

- Family
- Conveyancing
- Criminal
- Wills and Probate
- Welfare Benefits
- Employment



Our experienced team of Lawyers include David Ruebain and Joanna Owen who are themselves disabled and involved in the Disability Rights Movement and Douglas Silas, a fluent British Sign Language user who works with the Deaf community.

We are located in Wood Green in North London but also have offices in Camden and Birmingham. We undertake Legal Aid work as well as private cases.

For free initial and confidential advice contact us at: Ashley House, 235-239 High Road, Wood Green, London N22 4HF.  
Telephone: 0181-881 7777,  
Fax: 0181-889 6395,  
Minicom: 0181-881 6764,  
E-mail: davidlevene.co.uk



# Some choose a disability

Disability can be karma or choice, says Eileen Drewery. Here she explains what Glenn Hoddle really meant

So many of you have been distressed by what you have read in the newspapers about Glenn Hoddle and myself. We have both been misquoted so many times about our beliefs in reincarnation and karma and our faith in healing that we have grown used to it.

But we should never judge people or guess the lessons they learn in this life. For example, poverty can be seen as one of life's injustices, yet wealth, which is assumed by many to be a blessing, can isolate you from people. So the surface happiness may not be a true

own choosing. At no point did he say disability was a punishment, which was how the conversation was reported.

The purpose of life is to learn and we are all disabled in some way, be it emotionally, socially or physically. It is how we cope with this that decides whether we come out of the grind of life crushed or polished.

I have been a healer for 27 years and I have met and helped many disabled people.

Most of the people I have met have coped very well with their physical disability and have taught me a great deal about tolerance, humility and love.

A minority, though, have come to me feeling suicidal because of their physical problems.

It is with these people that I have discussed reincarnation and karma, which I have found has given them the strength to carry on.

These conversations have taken place on an individual level, and the subject is so complicated that it is only in a one-to-one conversation that you can really understand.

A friend of mine who has a disabled son has found that his disability has transformed the whole family.

The boy was born six years ago and before he arrived in the family she admits she was very materialistic.

In her search for some treatment to relieve some of the discomfort caused by his cerebral palsy, she bought him to me for healing.

When I work I make it very clear that the healing gift I have comes from God and that I am simply the channel for God's healing energy.

So during my friend's visits we have had many conversations about God, reincarnation and karma, and this has changed her life.

Her son's courage and love

have also changed her life, and she thanks God for sending him to her. She calls him her special child.

He has helped the whole family to reach a greater sense of fulfilment and spirituality.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all luck on your own personal journeys to spiritual peace and fulfilment. God bless.

*Eileen Drewery's book Why Me? is published by Headline, price £16.99.*



Press ganged: Eileen Drewery says Glenn Hoddle was misquoted

But this last incident, engineered by a *Times* journalist, was unforgivable as it hurt so many people unnecessarily.

I want to use this opportunity to put the record straight about what we truly believe, and I would urge you all to treat everything you read in the newspapers with caution and also with scepticism.

I believe we choose to reincarnate to perfect the spirit or soul, which is everlasting and continues to grow and progress.

Each time we return to earth we choose to set ourselves tests

reflection of the inner feelings.

When Matt Dickinson asked Glenn if being disabled could be your karma, Glenn replied that disability could be karma or something of the individual's

**'We are all disabled in some way, be it emotionally, socially or physically. It is how we cope with this that decides whether we come out of the grind of life crushed or polished'**

so that we can suffer and grow.

We need many different experiences in many different lives to perfect the different facets of the spirit.

If you have been rich and selfish in one life you may wish to repay this karma in another life by being poor but generous with your time and energy in helping others.

HEAD INJURY RE EDUCATION (H.I.R.E.) & HEADWAY NATIONAL HEAD INJURIES ASSOCIATION

are jointly presenting a two-day conference

**RE EDUCATION FOR LIFE  
AFTER HEAD INJURY  
(a multi-disciplinary conference)**

to be held at

**THE FORTE POSTHOUSE, NOTTINGHAM CITY  
(THE ALBANY HOTEL)**

**ST JAMES STREET, NOTTINGHAM  
on Monday 13 and Tuesday 14 September 1999**

If you would like to receive further details of the above conference when a programme has been finalised please contact:

Diane Fecowycz - Conference Administrator  
4 King Edward Court, King Edward Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW.  
Tel: 0115-947 1911 (direct line)  
Fax: 0115-958 4446  
E-mail: diane@headway.org.uk

**ALL ROUND ABILITY**  
Information, education, action & products for disabled people

**Help to light up  
Blackpool**

Exhibit at the third  
All Round Ability Exhibition.  
Norcalympia Hall, Blackpool.  
November 4,5 & 6.

It's the *one* exhibition for products  
and services in the fields of access,  
mobility and leisure for people  
with disabilities. Call Sonya  
Zinnureyin for details on  
0181 293 5903.

In partnership with  
**The Guardian**



# Sight hope on offer



Cecil Creed (centre) with surgeons Dr Stefano Pintucci (left) and Professor Harminder Dua

A visually impaired man was set to have a ground-breaking operation as *DN* went to press.

Cecil Creed, 77, who has been blind since childhood, was due to have a plastic lens transferred to his cornea. It had first been implanted inside his cheek in order to grow human tissue around its edges.

The initial operation was carried out at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham by Stefano Pintucci, who developed the technique in Italy.

Mr Creed, who lost an eye in a childhood accident, has also suffered three cornea transplant failures in his other eye.

The new technique should allow the eye and the artificial

lens impregnated with Mr Creed's own tissue to grow together, said QMC surgeon Professor Harminder Dua, who assisted Mr Pintucci in order to learn how to do the operation.

The technique also involves transferring a sheet of the lining from the inside of Mr Creed's lip to his eye. This will create bulk to hold the implant in place, the surgeons hope.

Two of the lenses were implanted into Mr Creed's cheek about six weeks ago. Professor Dua said: "If the first device is found to be adequately colonised with his cells it will be removed and the other will be left in his cheek as a spare for many years."

## Pollution linked to asthma

More evidence has emerged of a link between air pollution and breathing problems in children with asthma.

A study of 632 children in Holland found that the 119 who had asthma and allergies were more likely to suffer short breath, wheezing, blocked noses and sore throats during periods of higher air pollution.

They were also up to 131 per cent more likely to have problems when the air contained pollutants found in car exhaust.

The study, carried out at the University of Groningen and published in *The Lancet*, also found that the children were up to 139 per cent more likely to have problems when there were particles smaller than 10 micrometres in the air.

But another article in *The Lancet*, by Peter Burney, of Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine, warned it was still difficult to know exactly which air pollutants caused problems.

# Massage oil danger warning

Aromatherapy oils can be dangerous, nurses have warned.

The Royal College of Nursing Congress voted for an awareness-raising campaign about the potential hazards of misusing the oils.

Nurse and aromatherapist Kath Ryan, who is researching the use of oils on patients at Birmingham Women's Hospital, said oils could help reduce high blood pressure caused by pre-operation anxiety. But it was

important to understand the effects, she added.

Lavender, for example, was useful in lowering blood pressure, but was not recommended for individuals whose blood pressure was already low.

While certain oils might help wounds to heal, some could cause skin problems if used in concentration, she added. "You need to know if people are on medication and whether they have any allergies," she said.



**More Capacity**  
6 Persons including wheelchair

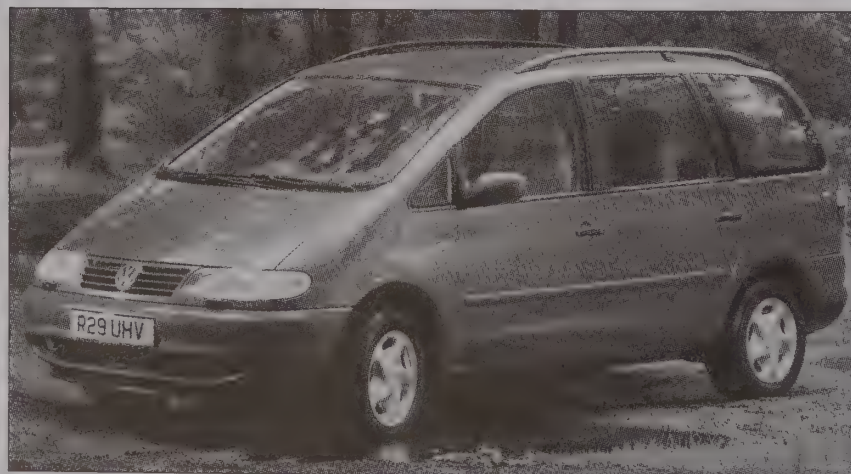
**More Options**  
Telescopic side steps  
Choice of wheelchair ramps  
Choice of wheelchair securing  
Detachable tow bar

**More choice**  
Full Volkswagen Sharan  
Model Range

**More value for Money**  
Fully adapted from  
£17,995



**& ACCESSIBLE SHARAN &**  
*gives you*  
**MORE**



**More Original Features**  
Volkswagen seating  
Volkswagen seatbelts  
Volkswagen braking system  
Volkswagen fuel tank  
Volkswagen full size spare wheel  
Modified Volkswagen rear bumper bar  
Volkswagen lock and catch mechanisms  
Volkswagen vehicle roof  
Volkswagen interior roof lining  
Volkswagen vehicle options  
Volkswagen three year warranty

**More Independence**  
free no obligation home trial  
and assessment period



**MORE SECURITY OFFERED BY THE LARGEST  
ACCESSIBLE VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN PRODUCER**

All vehicles can be tailored to individual needs  
Telephone to arrange a no obligation one day trial



**AUTOMOTIVE GROUP**  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE  
24 DIANA STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE4 6BQ  
TELEPHONE: (0191) 226 0099 FAX: (0191) 272 1313





# Jury out on wheels deals

A review of the Government's wheelchair services seems set to show a wide variation of provision around the country. Rod Hermeston looks at how the schemes are working so far

One year after the NHS failed spectacularly to spend money set aside for wheelchair services, disability groups are still campaigning for improvements in the provision of equipment.

DN revealed in April 1998 that the wheelchair voucher scheme had used only £225,000 of an initial £7m budget by December 1997.

The scheme gives disabled people a voucher equal to the value of the appropriate NHS wheelchair and with the option of paying extra for a better chair if they want to.

In 1998, the Government set up a review of the voucher scheme in England and of another scheme for Electric Powered Indoor/Outdoor Chairs (EPIOCs). Both schemes were launched in 1996 with £50m ring-fenced funding.

As part of the review, York Health Economics Consortium has sent out questionnaires to 4,000 wheelchair service users and all 150 wheelchair services.

Results so far suggest that the EPIOCs scheme is faring better than the voucher scheme.

But according to Pru Cartwright, chair of the National Wheelchair Managers Forum, an organisation of wheelchair service bosses, most managers feel that it is

underfunded, and there are long waiting lists.

While according to the Department of Health (DoH) most services now have a voucher scheme, some seem to be more successful than others. Staff shortages might be part of the problem.

In some areas it is difficult enough to get staff for general wheelchair services, let alone for the new schemes, Ms Cartwright claims.

Sam Gallop, chairman of the umbrella campaigning group

situation is improving and that the Government is listening, he is well aware of problems.

In some areas there is only a restricted number of EPIOCs on offer and they are not appropriate for everybody, he argues. There is also evidence that some services are having to fight to get the ring-fenced funding from health authorities, he says.

He believes that there is an added problem concerning therapists in small clinics doing several jobs, including management, for which they might not be trained.

Campaigners say there is also a need for consolidation and a case for ring-fenced funding to continue beyond the year 2000.

Joe Hennessy, vice chairman of emPOWER says: "We are concerned that if this becomes part of recurrent expenditure to health authorities it will start to disappear."

His group is asking for a fair, cost-effective service with enough cash to meet the need.

The DoH acknowledges these concerns and has involved Mr Hennessy and Mr Bradshaw in the ongoing review.

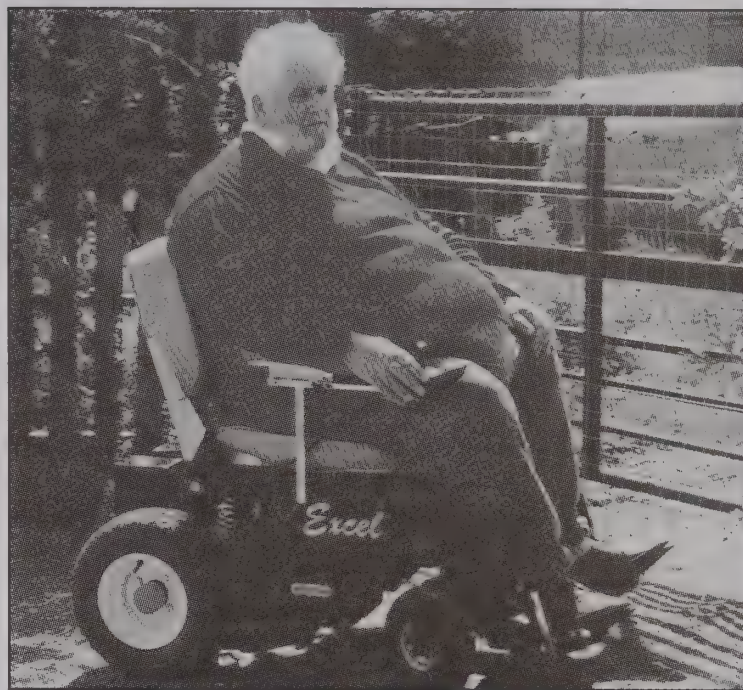
"We will continue to work with emPOWER on taking the outcome of the evaluation forward," a spokesman says.

**Staff shortages might be part of the problem. In some areas it is difficult enough to get staff for general wheelchair services, let alone for the new schemes**

emPOWER, goes further. "To introduce two schemes simultaneously without any thought to the extra therapists required was insane," he says.

The emerging pattern seems to be one of service variations throughout the country.

And while Stephen Bradshaw of the Spinal Injuries Association says that the



Making a difference: a power model from Aldersley Battery Chairs

Unfortunately, problems have been revealed in other areas, including prosthetics, orthotics and community equipment.

The Audit Commission is currently reviewing disability equipment services. Nick Mapstone, who manages the project, says: "We are finding that the orthotics service is probably not as good nationally as the wheelchair service or prosthetics service. There is lots of variation around community equipment in terms of the waiting times for the delivery of equipment."

But he backs away from outright criticism of the funding, maintaining that the

service probably does well within its budget. And he says research suggests that 90 per cent of wheelchair users are happy with services.

The disability charity Scope is more forthright in its criticism of equipment provision, both by the NHS and social services. Last year, its report *Equipped for Equality* highlighted delays in assessment, bureaucracy and problems in obtaining information about equipment.

The Government claims that it is promoting good practice and has agreed to meet Scope.

So change could be on the way, but in the meantime the campaigning goes on.

## Laura steps out

Laura Giddings, aged eight, of Hampshire, lost her left leg last year in a bombing in South Africa.

Her family (pictured below) is now campaigning for life-like limbs to be more widely available on the NHS. They



have decided to buy limbs privately at £2,500 each.

Her father Tony says: "We were told that children do not care what the leg looks like. It made me wonder what was going to be prescribed."

A DoH spokesman said limbs that should meet an individual's needs, including the needs of their lifestyle.

## BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS • HIATUS HERNIA

The Concern for Comfort Adjustable Bed has proved to be a boon to sufferers of a wide variety of medical conditions. If you are troubled by:



- arthritis/ rheumatism
- high & low back pain
- hiatus hernia
- swollen legs/ oedema
- poor circulation
- tight shoulders
- respiratory problems
- stress & tension

**CONCERN FOR COMFORT**  
...the rest comes naturally

Send for a FREE  
colour brochure

**FREEPHONE 0800 371663**

Name (Title) \_\_\_\_\_ DN5/99

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCERN FOR COMFORT • FREEPOST (PAM 6722) LONDON W13 0BR**

**"Find out why Stannah is the world's most chosen stairlift."**

Raymond  
Baxter



**FREEPHONE**  
**0800 715 124**  
Ext 7485

- Free survey • Fast, clean installation
- Straight or curved stairs • Full guarantee
- 24-hour call out service, 365 days a year
- New models - even smoother, quieter ride

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Stannah Stairlifts, Dept 7485,  
FREEPOST SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3BR.

**Stannah**  
Stairlifts

*The world's most chosen stairlift*



# Letters to the Editor



*Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW  
 Minicom: 0171-619 7332 Fax: 0171-619 7331  
 E-mail: editor@disabilitynow.org.uk  
 Website: http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk

## Inaccuracies and innuendo

I have never before seen an article in *DN* with so many inaccuracies and unsubstantiated innuendo as "New time, new style" (*DN*, April).

To put the record straight: far from leaving the British Council of Disabled People (BCODP) in 1985, that was the year I became chair. I was re-elected and served until 1987. I then continued on the management committee until 1997 in various roles and as the Disabled People's International (DPI) representative. I resigned as an officer in 1997 because I had been seriously ill and had to cut back on commitments.

However, I have always continued as a member of the BCODP through my membership at the grassroots of the Greenwich Association of Disabled People Centre for

Independent Living and through their representation of DPI Europe. I have been chair of DPI Europe for the last four years and for four years before that chair of DPI/European Union Commission.

I am completely committed to both the objectives and democratic structures of the BCODP and at no time have I had a conflict, either of idealism or pragmatism, with the organisation.

I have to believe that you have reported Mark Gilbert's words correctly. What is not correct is that Lambeth Accord is a member of the BCODP – it never has been. Nor is the Direct Action Network a member of the BCODP.

Rachel Hurst  
 Disability Awareness in Action  
 London SW1

# Access all areas

I am writing in response to Paul Darke's review of Channel 4's Access All Areas season.

The *Half Monty* was not voyeuristic; it was a cheer from a bunch of lads who are having a ball, as well as a comment on society's attitudes to people of restricted growth.

The two documentaries about people with Down's syndrome exposed discrimination in health care and education. To moan that C4 does nothing about this for the rest of the year is unrealistic – we have a duty to cover a range of topics and stories, and there are many other issues clamouring for airtime.

*Penny's Baby* was an important story in which the clash between a disabled mother and social services was fairly and accurately portrayed.

*Freak Out* deserved not snide remarks but applause for a genuine and largely successful attempt to put disability into a mainstream entertainment format and a primetime entertainment slot. It was the pilot

for a series, so it is work in progress, but disabled presenters and Rapido's production team gelled brilliantly to produce a show that made disability groovy, and it stood up well in the ratings.

Yes, the deaf drama was well acted and it was good to see deaf people involved in the production. And, yes, the season titles were great, but to say they were better than the season content is crass. It's time for some new thinking in your department, Paul. We're doing plenty in ours.

Alison Walsh  
 Disability Advisor  
 Channel 4

From over ten hours of filming the producers put together a piece a few minutes long, using statements completely out of context and conversations which were not made to camera as part of the various interviews filmed at the time.

Towards the end of the filming session I and other members expressed our concern most strenuously at the direction it seemed to be taking, and a copy of the final programme was requested for approval prior to transmission. This was ignored by Rapido TV, who in our opinion have dealt with the whole thing in an underhand and immoral manner.

The NABD feel that the programme makers tailored the programme to ridicule the important work done by the NABD and the dedication of its members in an obvious attempt at sensationalism.

Rick Hulse  
 NABD national chairman  
 Stockport, Cheshire

## Freaked out

The National Association for Bikers with a Disability (NABD) would like to express their disappointment and disgust with the way they were portrayed on the Rapido TV programme *Freak Out* (Channel 4).

## BCODP: no oppressive ways please

I am writing as a disabled artist and volunteer activist of many years experience. For this reason I applaud Ann Rae's deci-

sion to resign her position from the BCODP (*DN*, March).

Our movement is stronger if more valuable activists such as Ann do not turn a blind eye to staff unaccountability and bureaucracy. Our own organisations must not mirror the oppressive ways of non-disabled institutions.

Your feature "New time, new style" (*DN*, April) did not cover

all the issues, particularly a key disagreement between activists and the BCODP executives about genetics, which came to a head last year.

If things do not change, then the Millenium will arrive with greater rifts between the BCODP executive and the grassroots movement of disabled people.

Steve Jones  
 Newcastle upon Tyne

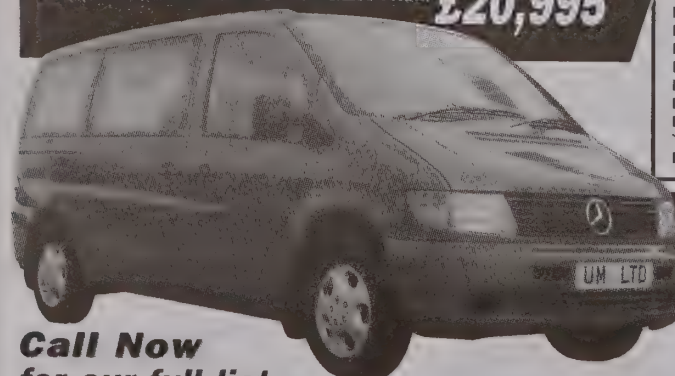


## NEW & USED VEHICLES

LOW RATE FINANCE & CASHBACK DEALS AVAILABLE

### BASE SPECIFICATION V-CLASS MERCEDES BENZ

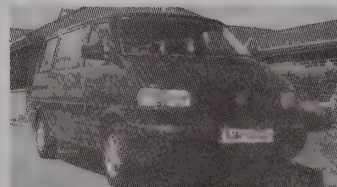
YOU RECEIVE ALL THIS FULLY CONVERTED FOR A WHEELCHAIR PASSENGER FROM **£20,995**



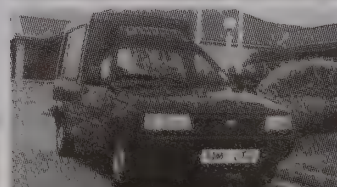
Adjustable steering column, Airbags for driver & front seat passenger, Air Conditioning, Air recirculation setting, Anti-lock brakes (ABS), Automatic front seat belt tensioners, Centre console with storage box, Childproof locks in rear, Cupholders in centre console, Electric rear ventilation windows, Electronic Traction Support (ETS), Electrically adjusted and heated door mirrors, Electric front windows, Five loudspeakers and automatic aerial, Five speed manual transmission, Folding rear table, Front centre armrests, Front seat height adjusters, Four individual seats in rear with 3-point inertia reel seat belts, Heat insulated tinted glass with band filter, Heated rear screen and rear wash/wipe, Illuminated Vanity mirrors, Interior reading lights, Litter bag holder, Load anchors in rear, Lockable glove compartment, Map pockets on front seats, MBVSS Anti-theft alarm system, Power steering, Rear air suspension, 'Pyramid' velour seat trim, Radio/Cassette, Remote control central locking, Roof rails, Twin sliding side doors.

OTHER NEW & USED CONVERSION TYPES AVAILABLE PLUS WHEELCHAIR DRIVER OPTION

*the freedom range*  
 The new freedom range from universal.



VOLKSWAGON CARAVELLE  
 Ex demo air suspension & alloys

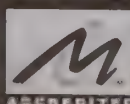


FIAT FIORINO  
 standard floor & lowered floor version



FIAT SCUDO  
 Ex demo air & lowered air suspension

\*charged at local rate



**SALES HOTLINE: 0845 7413348\***

Universal Mobility Ltd, Unit 2, Royd Mill, Dyehouse Lane, Brighouse, West Yorkshire HD6 1LL  
 Tel: 01484 400795 • Fax: 01484 400796 • Website: www.unimob.co.uk



no nonsense vehicle conversions

## PC pulse

### Auntie's legs

*DN* may be authoritative on disability issues, but we were surprised to discover just how widely this is recognised.

Emma Bowler of the BBC's Disability Programmes Unit, rang *DN* to ask if we had recently run a feature on holidays for disabled people in Thailand. If so, perhaps she could use it so that "you can do all the leg-work for us".

*DN* do all the leg work and "auntie" take the credit? That doesn't sound much like your much-vaunted public service broadcasting.

### Sign of the Times

*DN's* coverage of the London Wheelchair Marathon is on pages 20-21. What will mainstream newspapers do, we wonder. *The Times* ran a 16-page preview, which included Jeremy Bates and even the Mini London Marathon for children. But the Wheelchair Marathon? Fourteen words.



# Not a dog's life

There are many obstacles to getting a job working with animals – such as long study years and stiff competition – but disability need not necessarily be one as well, Peter Baber discovers

Who hasn't yearned to work with a cute furry, animal? I bet most of us have.

Which is strange, because a career as a vet is incredibly hard work. It's a hard subject to

into general practice in Canada for several years. When her condition worsened and she had to use a wheelchair, she was sacked from her job. But that still didn't put her off. She

become a researcher. Before she started the course at Bristol her supervisor made her work in the department for two weeks to make sure she could cope.

But the only alteration college authorities have now made for her is that she has someone else to take the radiogram for her. However, "it's far easier to do the work yourself," she says.

She is not at all upset by the college's attitude. "You need to realise that it is a very hard life as a vet," she says, "and disabled people should not expect special treatment. You have to be prepared to compete with able-bodied people, or else you can't do your job properly."

Nevertheless, she can't see why a deaf person shouldn't be a vet, and certainly thinks those with a spinal injury should be fine working with "small animals" – in other words pets. "If you have good upper body strength you could be a vet in a wheelchair," she says.

If you find that hard graft too much, there are other ways to work with animals. You could work in a zoo (*see above*).

You would have thought you could work with one of the many charities that trains dogs for disabled people, too.

But you'd be wrong.



Man's best friend: Dominic Snell enjoys working as a dog-handler

break into as well because it is so over-subscribed. According to the British Veterinary Association (BVA), anyone wanting to study veterinary surgery at the six universities in the UK that offer it will need science A-level grades of at least two As and a B.

If you get accepted, you need to be prepared for a hard slog. The Bristol, Liverpool, London, Edinburgh and Glasgow courses last a minimum of five years, and it's six years at Cambridge.

You need to be well-heeled too. A BVA spokeswoman added that, unlike many students who can use long vacations to do temporary work, student vets go on work experience in their vacations. "The college will be proactive in finding you work experience," she says, "but it won't be paid for."

With all those hurdles then, it's hardly surprising that vets with disabilities are few. But some fighting souls do exist.

Take Mary-Elizabeth Raw, for example. She has multiple sclerosis, but is now a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and has no regrets about becoming a vet.

She had to take two years out from studying because of what she now thinks was the onset of her condition. But she went on to pass her exams, and went

came back to Britain and went into academia, gaining a diploma in veterinary radiology.

She still had to prove herself before she was allowed to



If the person feeding these lemurs at Marwell Zoological Park in Hampshire looks familiar, it's not surprising: Katie Beeson, who is deaf, featured on the cover of *DN*, August 1998, when she first got her job as a keeper. She says it wasn't easy getting her job. She was lucky to be placed on a special training scheme at the park. And she still had to spend a year doing a City and Guilds in Animal Management at a local college. She was the only deaf student, and needed a note-taker in class and someone to help her go over the work afterwards. But she has always wanted to work at Marwell.

"I know I am helping to conserve different species," she says. "I wear a badge so people know I am deaf and can lipread. My head keeper knows the signs for 'fire' and 'animal escape'."

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association told *DN* that while disabled people could apply, anyone who works with its dogs would have to drive and take the dogs for a walk. At the moment it only has disabled people working on desk jobs.

With Dogs for the Disabled, it is even less promising. A spokesperson told *DN* that disabled people would have problems working with its dogs as its kennels are inaccessible.

Dominic Snell, however, is deaf, and loves his job as a dog-handler for Hearing Dogs for

Deaf People. "It's good to get out and about," he says, "and to drive around the country. I also do talks for local Women's Institute groups."

He says he got his job by doing a stint of work experience, and then a part-time NVQ in small animal care. He's been in his job nine years now.

So, the message is clear. If you want to work with animals, your disability shouldn't let you down. All you need is determination – dogged determination.

BVA, tel: 0171-636 6541.

## BHTA Wheelchair Distributors

We worry about standards so you don't have to.



BHTA is a trade association which includes a wheelchair distributors section. Our nationwide membership network has over 100 local outlets selling and repairing powerchairs and scooters.

They do it well and they do it ethically.

They have high standards. The Association makes sure.

The first step to trouble free independence is to contact us for a list of our members.

01732 458868



If it hasn't got the mark behind it, you won't have us behind you.

BHTA, 1 Webbs Court, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LZ

## Knightsbridge ... NEW FOR 1999 LET YOUR WHEELS DO THE WALKING !!

Do you suffer from stiff joints and need extra legroom for comfort?

Stretch out, relax and let the New Knightsbridge take you there.

Simple to manoeuvre, with easy to use controls.

Ring for a home demonstration today!

*Notability*

**FreeRider**  
working together

TELEPHONE (01536) 443888  
or write to: FREE RIDER (UK) LTD  
FREEPOST MID 16985  
CORBY, NORTHANTS NN17 4BR

DN 5/99

Name.....  
Address.....  
.....  
Postcode ..... Tel No. ....



# State of the art

The new IMAX cinema at Waterloo will offer a new experience in cinema, but will everyone be able to try it? Chris Davies finds out

This month the British Film Institute (BFI) opens an additional attraction to its neighbouring National Film Theatre and the Museum of the Moving Image on London's cultural South Bank.

Located on a roundabout

Bradford, you, like me, may not have heard of IMAX, but by the end of last year there were more than 180 IMAX cinemas worldwide – including the one at the National Museum of Photography in Bradford.

So what's so special about

stacked double-decker buses), over 26m wide and will show 2D and dazzling 3D pictures. However, because the IMAX camera is so big it can only record three and a half minutes of film per roll, the finished films are just 30-40 minutes long.



Size does matter: IMAX's huge screen will draw you into the picture



Future fantastic: the £20m development should become a real architectural landmark on the South Bank

opposite Waterloo Station, the new circular glass building, funded by the Arts Council of England's Lottery Fund and the British Film Institute, will contain the largest cinema screen in the UK. Unless, you live in

IMAX? The size of the screen. All IMAX screens extend beyond the peripheral vision of the viewer so he or she can feel like part of the action.

The BFI IMAX screen is 20m tall (almost as tall as five

The new cinema boasts some further impressive statistics. It cost £20m, and has an 11,600-watt digital surround-sound system, throwing sound effects all round the auditorium to enhance the "in the picture"

feeling. It also has a massive 482 seats.

Less impressive though, and despite the fact that the BFI is eagerly promoting its disability access, there are just eight wheelchair spaces – not a good ratio when they could have set a real precedent. And they are grouped together in two lots of four, right at the back of the auditorium.

Once again, the assumption appears to be that if you are a wheelchair user you will want to sit with "similar" people, and not next to anyone who accompanies you (despite the fact that probably due to fire regulations wheelchair users are going to be obliged to be accompanied).

The other access selling points appear to have been well thought out. There are lifts from the entrance to the auditorium, audio descriptions for blind visitors, an induction loop for those who are hearing impaired, and film scripts or

summaries for deaf visitors.

There are even facilities for recharging electric wheelchairs and adjacent parking spaces for disabled visitors.

Sounds almost too good to be true? Maybe it is, because between the lifts and the auditorium there are at least three heavy doors which appear to have no fastening mechanism. The cinema has to be extremely soundproof because of the size of the sound system, and to shield the audience from the noise of traffic and the railway.

I was told there would be plenty of staff to assist with the doors, but I don't see how this can be guaranteed, because they could be busy elsewhere, and not instantly available.

When I visited the place, it still resembled a building site, so I can only speculate about its potential based on the facts I was given and what I was able to see. But I must say, it appears to be a worthy effort.

I can only guess what the IMAX experience is like, but I'm keen to see it for myself. With only a few reservations, the BFI has made it possible for people like me to experience a new era of cinema.

Mind you, given that it is rumoured there will soon be an IMAX *Star Trek* film, just try to keep me away.

The BFI IMAX cinema tickets will cost £6.50 for adults, £4.50 for children aged 5-16, and will be open seven days a week.

First showing each day is 12pm, last showing Monday-Thursday and Sundays is 21.45pm (Fridays and Saturdays there is a performance at 22pm).

The reception desk will be low-level.

There were no box office contact numbers as DN went to press.

The IMAX cinema will be accessible via renovated subways from Waterloo Station, Waterloo Bridge, and the main South Bank area of the National Theatre and Museum of Moving Image.

PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF THE HOPLA WALKING TRAINER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TEL NO \_\_\_\_\_

DN5 Please state age of child

**T**HE HOPLA is a walking trainer for children who require an assistive aid in developing their independent mobility skills. Providing support and stability, Hopla is at the same time both functional and attractive, encouraging improvement in their walking abilities and their freedom of movement at play.

Hopla helps to maintain balance in a standing position and assists in providing a natural walking posture. Simple adjustments to the height, angle and movement ensure safety and individual comfort. Hopla comes in two sizes for children from 2-8 years with a wide range of optional accessories.

## NICE & STEADY

Manufactured in Sweden by Alvema, leading suppliers of rehab equipment for children, Hopla is available in the UK from Rainbow Rehab.

For full details call FREEPHONE 0500 618008 or complete the coupon and send it to:

**RAINBOW REHAB**  
RAINBOW REHAB  
FREEPOST, THE COACH HOUSE  
134 PUREWELL, CHRISTCHURCH  
DORSET BH23 1BR





# 'We don't want to be cured'

Discovering the internet has proved a real blessing for Eve Clyne and all of her family

Our family has a confession to make: we are net addicts and we do not want to be cured! Two years ago we bought a computer (with a building society windfall) then we went on the internet and have never looked back. We are the internet family.

My husband David and I have two children – Joanna who is 14 and Michael who is three. Joanna has spina bifida and hydrocephalus and is a wheelchair user. She has a shunt and, as usual, has had numerous operations.

When you have a disabled child you become hungry for information. I went on a search on the net and there were millions of links to help me (I literally mean millions). I managed to find information about e-mail lists which you can join to have information sent to you, and I started by subscribing to two of them: a general spina bifida one and one for moms and dads. (American spelling, but what do you expect in cyberspace?)

I also now belong to one that specialises in education and one for "care cards", which we use for "Get Well Soon" cards.

It was magic. I was in contact with other parents on all continents, all writing about their children, and also adults with spina bifida giving their views. The emails covered the problems, the operations and the success they were having, and every now and then there would be poetry or jokes.

Then we discovered chatting. We were directed to a disability chat area within what is called a chat room (a special section on the internet set up for chatting), as well as a general chat room and a kids' room. In fact, if you want a laugh, why not see what's happening in the depression chat room? My favourite now is the spina bifida room. You chat using your keyboard with people across the world and across time zones.

The whole experience has been helpful. From reading the letters on the list I remembered that children with a certain type of shunt should have antibiotics when they have dental treatment. When Joanna had a gum infection I rang her neurosurgeon, who put her on antibiotics. She could have caught a secondary infection and ended up in hospital.

Friends have gleaned information on latex allergies

through my list contacts. The e-mails have been lifesavers.

We went to Holland last summer and met an e-mail pal who had an 18-month-old daughter with spina bifida. We got on well. I feel I have an extended family.

But real letters (called snail mail) often arrive from the USA from other e-mail pals. Joanna was sent a wheelchair Barbie doll when they first came out.

She is just as eager as I am: at one stage she was getting over 100 e-mails a day: they even made her chat co-ordinator for the teens list.

David spends time searching for disability and charity information: he is secretary of our local association. He says it's good to add this to his many ways of networking to access information.

If you can use a keyboard the net is yours for the taking. If you can't, specialist adaptations are available. Whatever the disability, you can meet friends, exchange ideas or just chat about the weather.

It's so easy chatting to others who understand your disability, because it's theirs as well. Of course, you have to learn net language like "LOL", which is "laugh out loud" and "BRB", which is "be right back". But it's easy once you know how.



Apart from DN's own website, Joanna and Eve (above) strongly recommend five other sites:

- MGH neurological chat rooms: [http://neuro-www3.mgh.harvard.edu/interaction\\$/chat/index](http://neuro-www3.mgh.harvard.edu/interaction$/chat/index)
- Family Village: <http://laran.waisman.wisc.edu:8080/~1>
- Disability Net: <http://www.disabilitynet.co.uk>
- Children with spina bifida: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/~rowley/sb-kids/index.html>
- Spina bifida teens: <http://www.gurpages.com/me/c16/sbteens1.html>

PAUL GARDNER

## Clyne family rules for web surfing

To get on the net you need a computer with a modem (or you can get an internet attachment for the tv).

You can have free access to the net with one of several free providers. Start-up kits are available from many electrical goods stores.

Then you pay just the cost of a local call when you are "online". But we have rules which help keep costs to a bare minimum:

- Download your email first. This takes about two minutes. Then go "offline", or disconnect from the net.

- Read and write back while you are offline. Only go back on-line when you want to send what you have written.
- Chat and search after 6pm during the week – but not for too long.
- Keep weekends for surfing (searching) and long chats.

### The Viva Power Chair – Maximum Independence

**A new generation of power chairs, new standards in ride comfort, drive quality and styling.**

**The Viva power chair offers:-**

- A range of modular seating systems.
- Four wheel adjustable suspension giving performance with comfort.
- Onboard charger.
- Up to 35 miles on a single charge.
- Speeds up to 6.5 mph.
- Excellent kerb and hill climbing ability.
- Programmable joystick control.
- Transportable - dismantles into five parts.
- Models available for people up to 32 stones (450lbs).

Electric Mobility has been designing and manufacturing vehicles for the mobility market for over 20 years, and this experience is reflected in the innovative design and superb engineering of its new Viva power chair. For further information please contact Electric Mobility using the freephone number or the freepost address.

**ELECTRIC MOBILITY EURO**

Electric Mobility Euro Ltd. FREEPOST (BA1449), Yeovil Somerset BA22 8YZ  
or visit our Web Site - <http://www.emobility.com>

DN 3/99

**Freephone 0800 252614**





# A second Frei win – by a s

The men's race in this year's Flora London Wheelchair Marathon was a nail-biter, says Peter Baber, but Britain lo

Heinz Frei remains champion of the London Wheelchair Marathon – but only just.

In one of the closest finishes in years, the 40-year-old Swiss sprinted across the finish line to claim a second successive

victory in 1:35:26, just one second ahead of Jeannot Joel, a 33-year-old Frenchman who is a newcomer to the London Wheelchair Marathon.

However Mr Frei, who also won in 1995, said he appreciat-

ed having stiff competition, as it made him produce just as good a result as last year, despite a strong headwind.

"It was good to share the lead for a long time," he said. "Last year I was alone for a long

time, which makes it difficult to keep motivated."

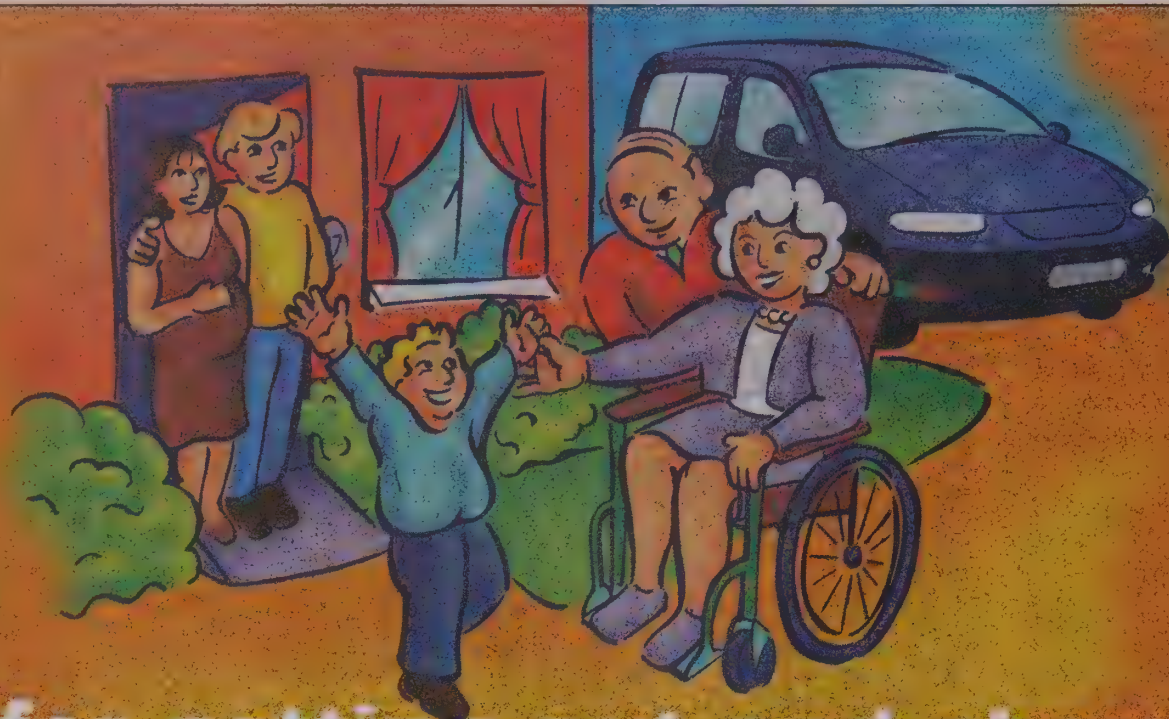
Mr Joel said he was very satisfied, and would definitely be back next year.

Britain's David Holding improved on his fourth place

last year to come in third with a time of 1:45:28. Holding, who had led the pack at the start, was running his tenth marathon. Like Frei, he said he had benefited from having a close challenger – in his case Denis Lemeunier, another Frenchman, who came fourth.

In the women's marathon, a more suitable events calendar this year meant Sweden's Monika Wetterstrom could compete and win in 1:57:37, comfortably ahead of Britain's Tanni Grey, who was disappointed with a time of 2:11:09.

Ms Wetterstrom had not competed in last year's



for getting out and about  
gowrings mobility offers you a  
whole world of possibilities

**T**he car gives us all freedom. The power to go where we choose, when we choose. It gives us independence and of course it gives us mobility. For wheelchair users though just getting in and out of an average four door saloon is not only difficult, it is sometimes nigh on impossible.

Gowrings Mobility has been building high quality **Chairman** car conversions for over 30 years so we understand the value of mobility. But don't just take our word for it, you can see what June and Bernard Simpson of Staffordshire had to say:



**"Since we have had our Chairman life has had a richer quality, with no problems of thinking shall we make the big effort to go out! It's just so easy."**

JUNE AND BERNARD SIMPSON – CHAIRMAN OWNERS

To find out how you can experience the pleasures of easy motoring call the **Freephone** number below for your free full colour **Chairman** information pack, or if you prefer complete the coupon.

**Call Free 0800 220878**



**gowrings  
mobility**

a whole world of possibilities

Please send me further information regarding the Gowrings Mobility Chairman range.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Gowrings Mobility Ltd. 3 Arnhem Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5RU. Tel: 01635 529500. Fax: 01635 529400. Internet: [www.gowringsmobility.co.uk](http://www.gowringsmobility.co.uk)

Please return this coupon to us at:

**Gowrings Mobility  
FREEPOST  
Newbury  
Berks RG14 5ZW**



BBC presenter Helen Rollason and Tanni Grey (left) at the end of the

marathon because an indoor marathon in her home country had been held on the same day. This year, she said, although the two events were separated by a couple of days, she had still decided that the London event was more important. "I had to go to London," she said. "I said to them at home: 'If you

## Results

### Men

1st – Heinz Frei	1.35.2
2nd – Jeannot Joel	1.35.2
3rd – David Holding	1.45.2

### Women

1st – Monika Wetterstrom	1.57.3
2nd – Tanni Grey	2.11.0

### Mini Marathon

14-17 Class  
Boys – Dwayne Cooke  
Girls – Michelle Lewis

### 11-13 Class

Boys – Brian Aldiss  
Girls – Danielle Morrison



# cond

in the women's race



Wetterstrom powers home well in front (above left), as Heinz Frei (right) sprints to the line just in front of Jeannet Joel (above centre)



Minister Tony Banks present awards to Monika Wetterstrom and which David Holding started in the lead (right) GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

stupid to have your event at the time, I won't be there." London race was the first time she one an outdoor marathon this he said, as heavy snows and grit- ads back home in Sweden have t impossible to train outdoors. Grey said she had not expected to Ms Wetterstrom, as the London hon route contains plenty of

sharp corners, which she thinks are more suitable for Ms Wetterstrom's style. "But I was hoping for a 2:02 finish," she said. "It took me a couple of miles to get going, then it was okay until Tower Bridge, and then I just got slower."

The Mini Wheelchair Marathon was won by Brian

Aldiss and Danielle Morrison in the 11-13 years class, and Dwayne Cooke and Michelle Lewis in the 14-17 years class. For Mr Cooke, it was an improvement on last year's fourth position.

The running men's marathon saw amputee Antony Read and visually impaired Phil Hall finish in times of 4.19 and 6.15 respectively. Mr Read had been hoping to run the London Marathon for 15 years.

But the event also had a new type of competitor in Zoe Koplowitz, who insists on running marathons on crutches – no matter how long it takes.

Ms Koplowitz, a New Yorker aged 50 with multiple sclerosis and diabetes, was still going around as DN went to press.

She has already competed in 12 New York Marathons, and one Boston Marathon, where she freely admits she recorded the slowest time ever.

But she says she takes part to help people look again at the whole idea of winning.

"This is all about moving past the point where we have nearly given up on life," she told DN.

## London Borough of Brent



**Misha** (30/11/89) is of Asian/Pakistani descent, and needs a family who will be able to meet all her needs. She is light-skinned, and has brown eyes and thick black hair. She is tall and slim. Although **Misha** is passive, at times she appears alert and smiles. She likes to be touched and cuddled, and to be with people, and likes people to talk to her. **Misha** also enjoys music. She needs a loving, warm and stimulating environment.

**Misha** has global development delay,

microcephaly and epilepsy. Her medical condition is maintained by medicine. She is a wheelchair user, and is totally dependent on adults to meet her personal needs. Although we are looking for a two-parent family for **Misha**, we will also consider single parent applicants who will be able to offer her love, affection and a great deal of support. There will be an adoption allowance for her, and **Misha** will have indirect contact with her birth parents and one of her sisters.

Please contact Funmi Adetilo at

## ESL brings you Health & Comfort...

A range of showering, bathing, access and mobility products, specially designed to make daily life easier and safer.

Our 32 page catalogue shows a selection, including shower trays and half-height doors, grab rails and seats, wheelchairs, walking aids and kitchen utensils.

For your copy, please complete and return the coupon (no stamp required) or phone our Helpline on 01323 465800.

Visit our website: [www.eslhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.eslhealthcare.co.uk)



For your 32 page colour catalogue, complete this coupon and send it in an envelope to:

ESL Healthcare Ltd  
FREEPOST BR837  
Pevensey  
East Sussex BN24 5BR

Name .....

Address .....

Postcode .....

please tick box if you do not wish to receive information from us in the future [ ]

ESL makes everything that much better



# Tubs, tools and other things

Anne Davies starts our three-page gardening special with a look at new gadgets to make gardening easier

At the first sign of spring we rush to brighten up a corner of the yard, patio or porch, and this year several products have caught my eye.

The Lincoln Wrought Iron Company produces unusual

designs for containers, in particular, a penny-farthing priced at £28.50 and a jardiniere available in three heights, low, medium and tall. The latter has a 36cm basket top in cast iron, and costs from

£20 to £22, depending on height. These products will last for years and can be found in most good garden centres.

Another item available only from Lincoln is the split jardiniere. As it is of medium

height and the top basket rotates, it could be ideal if you are sitting. It costs £22.15.

Tubs can be very heavy to move so I was pleased to see Grosfillex has come up with a tub roller on castors. It is in

three sizes and costs between £10 and £13.

Composting is so important at this time of year. Top of the compost heap for value and good results are Homebase Multi-Purpose Peat-Based compost, at £3.99 for 90 litres, and Erin and B&Q, both at £3.99 for 80 litres.

The top peat-free varieties are



The bucket pocket tool centre

J Arthur Bowes New Horizon, at £4.99 for 80 litres, and Westland Earth Matters, at £3.99 for 50 litres. Gro-bags from Homebase are 99p each.

Planting up a hanging basket is quite a task. I always use a liner and found the latest Agralan Fibre-line retains moisture and is easy to use. It is available in packs of two, at £2.98 for a 30cm basket.

Agralan also has a garden algae and mould remover for garden ornaments covered in algae. It costs £3.99 for 500ml.

New products from Town and Country include the RHS



Town & Country's bib apron

rosegloves, and a set of comfortable kneepads at £8.99. Another good idea is the Bucket Pocket that wraps around an ordinary bucket, turning it into a portable tool centre. It costs £17. Town & Country also makes bib aprons.

Wheelbarrows are usually heavy and unyielding, but I was impressed with the Grosfillex Garden Cart. It can be steered with one hand, whether you are pulling or pushing. It costs around £40 from John Lewis.

Finally, Windrush Mill is a new mail order company. Phone for a free catalogue.

Windrush Mill, tel: (01993) 770456

Agralan, tel: (01295) 860015  
Lincoln Wrought Iron Company, tel: (01775) 820736.

Hyundai have done it again. Or at least that's what the motoring press would have us believe.

According to Autocar, the new Hyundai Atoz represents a "potentially class-busting combination of packaging, performance and equipment". (25.2.98)

Who are we to disagree?

After all, the Hyundai Atoz does start from just £6,999\* and with easy access via 5 doors, power assisted steering, metallic paint, great headroom and superb visibility, there's nothing else quite like it.

What's more, its sibling Atoz+ has luxuries such

as air-conditioning, central locking, electric front windows, alloy wheels, metallic paint and a full-sized driver's airbag as standard for only £7,999\*.

And who else offers the option of a 5-speed semi-automatic transmission where you change gears without using a clutch pedal, or a 3-speed fully automatic transmission, but still with no advance payment on the Motability Scheme?†

For details on the Hyundai 'Motability' Scheme and the exciting Hyundai range of coupés, hatchbacks, saloons and estates, call free on 0800 981 981, or visit [www.hyundai-car.co.uk](http://www.hyundai-car.co.uk).



## New car.

## No advance payment. No clutch.

## No worries.



HYUNDAI ATOZ. WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

Hyundai Car (UK) Ltd., St John's Place, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1NL.  
Hyundai Atoz (manual) at £6,999 and Atoz+ (manual) at £7,999, on the road including 12 months Road Fund Licence (not applicable to Higher Rate Mobility Allowance).  
Optional 5-speed semi-automatic transmission £470, 3-speed automatic transmission £699. †Subject to status. 12,000 miles per annum. Written details on request.

\*This is the trademark of Motability: Registered Charity No.299745

**Motability**



# Healthy growth buds

Horticultural therapy is moving into the new century. Peter Baber looks at plans to increase the service it offers its clients

run as commercial nurseries or garden centres.

Chris Martin, national development manager of Thrive – formerly Horticultural Therapy, a charity promoting gardening for therapy, training, and leisure – says this is a reflection of the high calibre of the clients. Many have had impressive past careers.

“Some have been chief executives and have gone on to run projects themselves,” he says.

Most surprising of all is the number of people who benefit

**‘The combination of exercise and producing something is very empowering’**

from projects: 250,000 in total, of whom about 60,000 are full-time workers.

But the survey also found some problems. One is that the projects are disparate, with some only a few miles apart not knowing of each other’s existence and certainly not co-operating over issues such as bulk ordering to cut costs.

This is perhaps understandable, given the wide range of disabilities and traumas in which the centres specialise:

one is at a Marie Curie hospice while another works with torture victims.

As a result some centres are under constant threat of closure. “We need a structure to ensure they work closer together,” Mr Martin says.

One problem is that 40 per cent of centres rely entirely on donations, with only 13 per cent funded by their local health authority.

Thrive is considering setting up a communications network to keep groups informed of what each other is doing.

And it wants to help even more clients to make use of their training. “We are working with Mencap to look at setting up social firms (community-based, integrated companies) and using its Pathway officers to look at training issues,” says Mr Martin.

It also wants to raise public awareness of the projects, and to this end has won the support of Monty Don, gardening writer and TV presenter.

“The combination of exercise with the connection that we are producing something for the future is very empowering,” he told *DN*.



Chris Michaels, 53, (above) was born with retinitis pigmentosa, a degenerative eye condition, and so knew from an early age he was going to go blind. He was nearly 40 when it actually happened, however, and working as a telephonist.

Nevertheless, he had always wanted to do “something horticultural”, having inherited an interest in gardening from his father. So he decided to take the challenge and set up his own business.

Horticultural Therapy, now Thrive, advised him about training and setting up his business, and suggested he go to Lincoln College, now part of De Montfort University, where he did a City and Guilds in Horticulture. He also had some training at John Grooms’ Hope Nursery in Cheshunt in Hertfordshire.

Chris now runs his own nursery in Suffolk, growing pelargoniums, bedding plants and shrubs, and selling them out of a caravan. He employs some part-time helpers – “I can’t really keep an eye out for disease,” he says. But he is very much his own boss, and has determined ideas for the future: “I want to quadruple my sales.”

Ray Castle, 52, had a severe stroke five years ago, which paralysed much of his right side. For a former London publican, this might have been a major disaster, but Ray’s occupational therapist got in touch with Thrive.

And although Ray was never a keen gardener, he feels working at Thrive’s Battersea Park base has given him a new lease of life. “It gives me self-confidence,” he says. “And I feel part of a team. He also believes gardening has given him back some mobility: “I can move my arm more and I can use it to plant things.”



Digging in: Monty Don is a major Thrive supporter

Gardening has long been seen as a useful way for people who are suddenly disabled to adjust to their new life.

The process certainly isn’t new. Images of young disabled men stoically toiling in the nursery go back to the First World War, if not earlier.

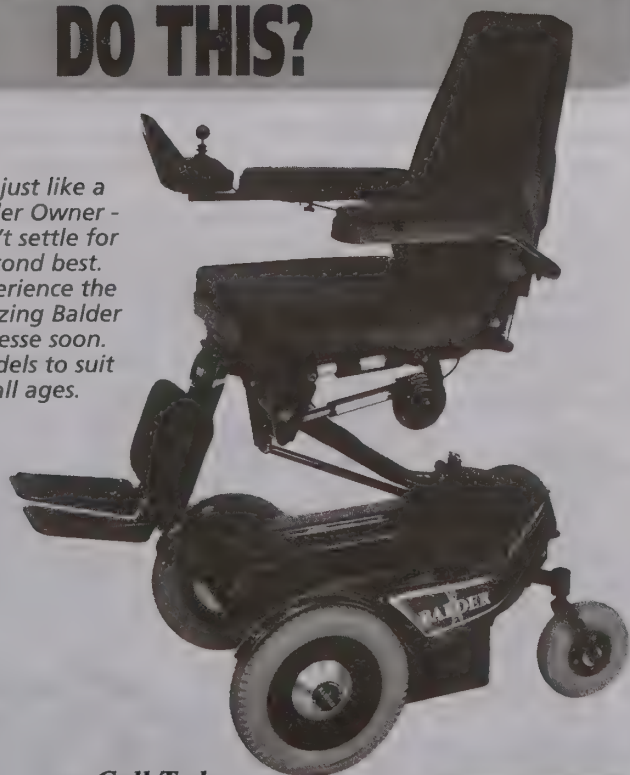
But the first survey of the country’s approximately 1,500 organisations running horticultural projects for disabled people and those with learning difficulties has revealed some surprising findings.

Certainly, the results suggest that gardening for disabled people has come a long way since it was seen as a way of keeping unfortunate individuals happy while they lived out their days.

A total of 47 per cent of projects now provide vocational training, so that clients can make an often very successful career with their new skills, (see picture story, right). And 17 per cent of organisations are

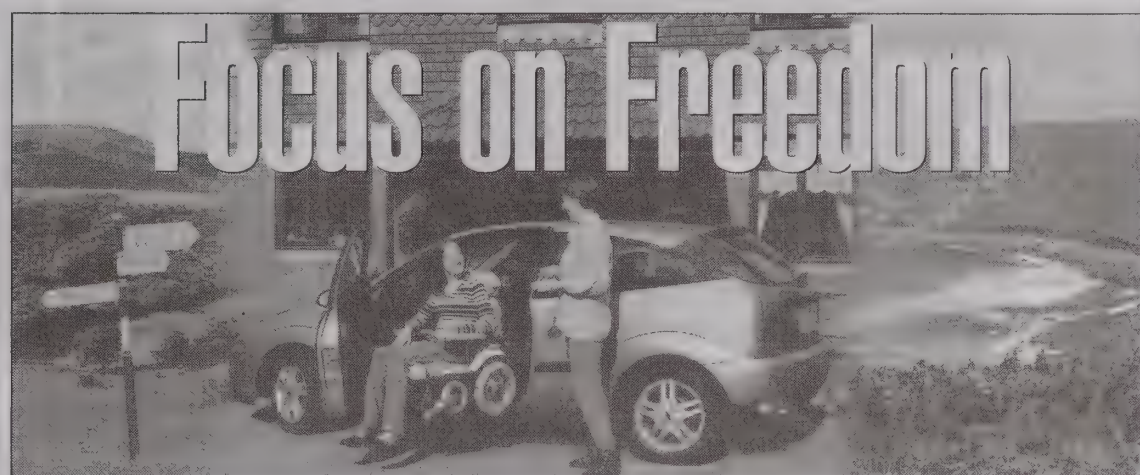
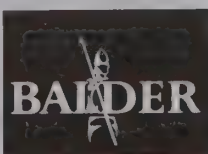
## CAN YOUR POWERCHAIR DO THIS?

Be just like a Balder Owner – don’t settle for second best. Experience the amazing Balder Finesse soon. Models to suit all ages.



Call Today  
**01256 477333**

Balder UK Ltd, Unit E, Telford Road, Houndmills Ind Est,  
Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6YU  
Tel: (01256) 477333 Fax: (01256) 470055



## With The Carchair Wheelchair System

The innovative Carchair system converts from an all-purpose wheelchair into a car seat, in either the front passenger or drivers’ position. Carchair avoids the need to transfer or stow

the chair, thereby making the whole process of getting in and out of a vehicle so much easier.

For more details and a FREE No Obligation demonstration at your home Contact:

**Notability**

Dept. DN, Freeport (BR1032), Mountney Bridge Business Park, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5BR

Tel: 01323-767574 Fax: 01323-767603

**Constables**





# History and horticulture

As English Heritage and The National Trust open their gardens this season, Dan Batten guides you around

Audley End house, near Saffron Walden, Essex, is surrounded by parkland with a river running through its grounds. Highlights include a restored 1832 *par terre* flower garden. The ground floor of the house is accessible to wheelchair users and a Braille guide is available. For more information, tel: (01799) 522399.

Downe House, Downe, Kent, should appeal to gardener and scientist alike, being the family home of Charles Darwin. You can take a stroll around Darwin's "thinking path",

which he walked along five times a day, and which surrounds a wood. A guide to the house is available on tape, and a disabled person's toilet is on the ground floor. You'll need to book at least a day in advance. Adults £5.50, concessions £4.10, children £2.80. Tel: 0870-603 0145.

Wrest Park Gardens are spread over 150 acres in Bedfordshire, and were originally laid out in the 18th century by the Dukes of Kent, and later by Capability Brown. English Heritage regards Wrest Park as a garden

for all seasons. There is wheelchair access throughout the grounds, as well as audio-described tours. Entrance prices are: adults £3.20, concessions £2.40, children £1.40. For more information tel: (01525) 860152.

Berrington Hall in Leominster, Herefordshire, has level paths giving access to a large part of the gardens for wheelchair users. Inside the house a stair-lift gives access to the upper floors, but it must be booked in advance. Tel: (01568) 615721.

Castle Ward House, in County Down, has easy access to its sunken garden, with woodland and lake walks. The house is accessible through the main entrance and side porch, with Braille and cassette guides available. Tel: (01396) 881204.



Wrest Park Gardens, Bedfordshire: laid out by Capability Brown

## Fragrant colour in Chelsea

Three disability charities are making a re-appearance at this year's Chelsea Flower Show, from 25 to 28 May.

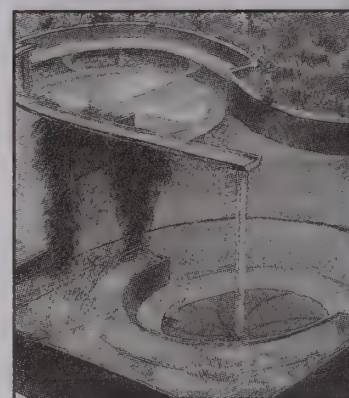
Action for Blind People, which last year teamed up with DN and Scope to produce the Freedom Garden, will have a Sensory Garden sponsored by the fragrance manufacturer Quest.

The garden will feature smells and colours to reflect different moods, and a "wall" of scented water. But it will also create special sounds by using different paving stones and tinkling wind chimes. The design, approved by

Horticultural Therapy, includes handrails and smooth corners to make it a pleasant experience for visually impaired people.

Meanwhile, Help the Aged is marking the United Nations International Year of Older Persons with The Life Garden, which will have five fountains representing the five continents, while Marie Curie Cancer Care has teamed up with Yellow Pages to produce a garden symbolising progress made in cancer care.

Access, DN has been promised, will be better than



Sensory Garden scented wall

last year. To book tickets for 27 and 28 May, when the show is open to the general public, tel: 0171-344 4343. Public tickets cost £10 - £26.

## VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE & CADDY KOMBI, NEW FOR 1999.



CARAVELLE

Various options of wheelchair access available on the Caravelle people carrier. Underfloor ramps or hydraulic lifts for side access. Ramps or lifts for rear access, including lowering rear suspension. Prices from £17,950 on the road. Full conversions for disabled driver independence, which can include: 6-way driver's seat base, infra-red door and lift operation.

**Come and see us at**  
Naidex Care Management,  
NEC Birmingham,  
18-20 May  
**Stand 231**



CADDY KOMBI

This stylish and compact estate car has such a lot to offer. Power steering, electric windows, remote central locking, tinted glass, stereo/radio cassette player, driver's airbag, 1.6 petrol or 1.9 diesel engines. Lowered floor with assisted ramp and restraints for wheelchair, including seating for four people. Prices from £13,495 "S" model. "SE" model includes air conditioning and metallic paintwork, £14,390.

Contact Paul Cassidy or David Reid for brochures or a demonstration. Invatravel is a long established company with years of experience providing for the needs of people with disabilities.

Conversions are to Volkswagen compatible design and are recognised converters for VW.

**INVATRavel CONVERSIONS LTD**

66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS

Tel: 01704 506608 • Fax: 01704 506607

[http://www.scoot.co.uk/invatravel\\_conversions/](http://www.scoot.co.uk/invatravel_conversions/)

*Established 1983*







# Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW

**My fight for a wheelchair**  
I am a wheelchair dependent amputee and am diabetic. I asked the NHS employee who came to measure me up for a replacement manual wheelchair if I could have an electric one. She said the NHS did not supply them. She did suggest I contact charities to see if any of them could supply me with one, or let me have an annuity to help me get one. Can you help me? I don't know where to start.

Michael, Kent

It is notoriously hard to get NHS indoor/outdoor wheelchairs. Usually they are given only to people who cannot propel a manual chair. Your doctor could put pressure on your local NHS wheelchair service for you, but this may not work. The Government is making more money available for the provision of indoor/outdoor wheelchairs, and a general review of provision is going on now (see page 15). I still think it is outrageous that wheelchair users get sent to charities for help. The NHS is supposed to fulfil the health needs of everyone.

But sadly this may be your only option. Your library will have details of local charities who may be able to help you. Because they restrict their support to local people and are often not well known, they may have funds available. You could also contact your local newspaper about your

## Pub snubbers

I'm only 24 and yet I find it difficult to develop a relationship with any young man. Even when I go to pubs and clubs, they just don't want to know – and yet I'm told I'm attractive. When I do pluck up enough courage to talk to a bloke I fancy (usually after a few drinks), I always get tongue-tied. On top of that, I have a bit of a speech defect. I just feel so frustrated, annoyed, unattractive and rejected when young men blank me.

Alison, London

I would suggest you try socialising in other places as well as in pubs and clubs. We are all at our best when we do something we are keen on. This could be a hobby, a sport or an evening class – an activity in which we feel confident, and which we can talk about easily. Preferably something involving young people. You could then find companions to share an interest with. Pubbing then may be something you do with your friends. But I also wonder if you have any young male relatives who would go with you to pubs and clubs and would quietly disappear at the right moment? I once had a "pretend" brother who gave me all the confidence I needed. If somebody else showed interest, he would make an excuse to leave and go and chat up someone else.

experience. You would need to point out how difficult you find it to get around. If the paper takes up your story, the reporter can ask questions that would be difficult for you to put to NHS officials.

**Living wills need support**  
Some months ago a reader brought up the issue of "mercy killings". These have malevolent undertones of abuse. I am not against the idea of suicide. But I challenge the principle of being helped to die. Before assisted euthanasia becomes acceptable in our

society, we should first enforce "living wills" as legal documents. Even if someone has registered one, both on their GP and hospital records, no doctor is obliged to take note of it.

David, Milton Keynes

While living wills can still be ignored by doctors, they are increasingly being used to respect a patient's wishes when they are not in a position to make them clear. A close relative should know of the existence of a living will, so it can be brought to the

## A UNIQUE SERVICE

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor, Methodist local preacher and has gained a postgraduate diploma in homeopathic medicine. Talk to her on (01787) 882111 on Mondays 6pm-10pm and Thursdays 1pm-5pm.



## Carving a career

Robert of Bristol (DN, October), who wrote about his carving hobby, is now running wildfowl two-day carving courses, and selling carving kits. He lost all his incapacity benefit, but he now has a satisfying career which fits in with the time he can give and which makes allowances for rest. Write to Robert Leatherby and he will be glad to send you details of his courses.

Robert Leatherby,  
53 St Aidans Road,  
St George, Bristol SS 8EP.

attention of doctors. The Voluntary Euthanasia Society provides living will forms on request (free to members, £5 to non-members). Living wills are in fact an entirely separate issue from voluntary euthanasia.

**Getting over a mugging**  
I was disabled in an attack by three youths. I was in hospital for six months. I am 38 and now very fit but can't find a long-term girlfriend.

I go swimming, I enjoy watching live bands and playing the guitar. How do I advertise in DN?  
Jock, Cornwall

It is not easy to find a partner just when we would like to. But you must meet women when you go swimming. Is there anyone who is nervous in water who would welcome your help? Perhaps you could consider a sporting holiday which included swimming? Your guitar playing would be much appreciated there too. For personal ads in DN, submit up to 25 words and send a cheque or postal order

for £5 payable to "Disability Now" with your ad. The Voluntary Euthanasia Society, 13 Prince of Wales Terrace, London, W8 5PG. Tel: 0171-937 7770.

**Innovation Not Imitation!**  
**Creating Not Copying**

In July 1985 Stuart Dunne, the Managing Director and Founder of Cyclone, was rushed to the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries following a serious RTA in which he severed his spinal cord at C6/7. The skill and dedication of staff at Oswestry saw him through the next 6 months and prepared him for life in the outside world. Cyclone Mobility and Fitness are now one of the country's leading mobility providers.

**CYCLONE**  
Mobility and Fitness Ltd

Hand Control  
Freedom All Terrain Vehicle  
Versatrainer  
Sports Chairs  
Hand Cycles  
All Terrain Vehicles  
Power Chairs

Freephone 0500 434 493

CYCLONE. FREEPOST NWW 3068, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral L66 1BR

Fill in this form NOW

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

DN5/92

I am interested in information on:

☐ Versatrainer  
☐ Upportone  
☐ Thera Trainer Range  
☐ Sports Chairs  
☐ Everyday Chairs  
☐ Hand Cycles  
☐ All Terrain Vehicles  
☐ Hand Controls  
☐ Power Chairs

**G & M**  
**COACHWORK**  
Specialist Conversions

Introducing the new **Mercedes Benz Vito** wheelchair accessible people carrier. High quality with easy access and excellent visibility.

Passenger layout options include:  
• 5 seats + one wheelchair • 4 seats + two wheelchairs

Features include:  
• access via automatic side underfloor lift or rear ramp  
• unleaded petrol or diesel engine  
• automatic or manual transmission  
• electric mirrors and windows  
• power steering  
• central locking  
• air suspension

**SPECIALIST WHEELCHAIR CONVERSIONS**

We specialise in wheelchair accessible conversions based on most popular makes. Conversions on new or good quality used base vehicles. Also a stock of used, refurbished van conversions & mini buses. Conversions for 1 to 4 wheelchairs & 2 to 8 seats with electric lifts, ramps or lowering suspension.

For advice and information on conversion and motability, contact David Vooght, G&M Coachwork, Teign Valley, Trusham, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 0NX  
Tel: 01626 853050



E-mail: [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)Website: <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk>

## Information

Hammersmith and Fulham Action on Disability have set up a barter system where members use their skills, such as teaching music and baby sitting, to gain access to goods and services like window cleaning, etc. Details from Rupa Sarkar, tel/minicom: 0171-610 9666, fax: 0171-610 9786.

EMFEC, specialists in vocational education and training, have a selection of self-advocacy material, including *Living with Self-Advocacy* and *Taking Self-Advocacy Seriously*. Details from EMFEC, Robins Wood House, Robins Wood Road, Aspley, Nottingham, NG8 3NH, tel: 0115-929 3291.

The Further Education Funding Council has published a booklet for young people with learning difficulties/disabilities. Chapters include funding, getting help, specialist colleges and lists of their regional offices. Contact the Council at Cheylesmore House, Quinton Road, Coventry CV1 2WT, tel: (01203) 863000.

The ADD/ADHD Gazette is an on-line (on the internet), free newsletter with information on autism, asperger syndrome, tourette syndrome dyslexia and dyspraxia, covering areas such as management, education and research. To be added to their mailing list send an e-mail to [ADDezine-subscribe@listbot.com](mailto:ADDezine-subscribe@listbot.com).

The African Caribbean Project of the Relatives Association has published a directory of residential care and sheltered housing in London focusing on the needs of African Caribbean elders. It costs £1.60 (inc. p&tp) from Wesley Dowridge, tel: 0171-916 0515. Further information on provision in other cities should be sent to the Relatives Association, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SN.

And still they keep coming! Here's some more websites. If you want yours included send it to Damien Vessey at the editorial address on page 3.

## What's on

The Papworth Trust host the conference *Employment issues facing people with acquired brain injuries*, 12 May, Cambridge. It will include employment schemes for rehabilitating people back to work and assessment services available for exploring new career options. Enquiries to Kate McMullen, The Papworth Trust, Papworth Everard, Cambridge CB3 8RG, tel: (01480) 357259.

The Shaw Trust, with the DSS and DfEE will host a conference on the New Deal for Disabled People, 18 May, London, where government ministers will outline the strategy of moving disabled people from Welfare to Work. Organisations are invited to put forward questions. For further information call the Conference Organiser, Shaw Trust, tel: (09105) 795194, or e-mail: [sarah.hodge@shaw-trust.org.uk](mailto:sarah.hodge@shaw-trust.org.uk).

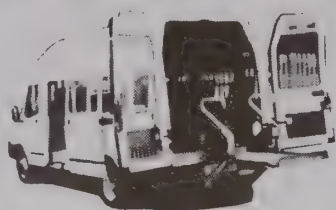
The National Deaf Children's Society host *The 11th NDCS Technology Exhibition*, 18-19 June, Wolverhampton. On show will be 70 leading manufacturers/suppliers, schools/colleges and related organisation. You can get advice on a range of equipment, benefits and welfare issues. Information from Yvonne Tysoe, tel/minicom: 0171-490 8656, fax: 0171-251 5020.

# CHATFIELDS

## M A N C H E S T E R

OR OR  
**HIRE LEASE PURCHASE**

**'96 'P' LDV CONVOY**  
**HI-LOADING DIESEL WELFARE BUS**



- 14-16 seater, some front entry, some side entry
- All with wheelchair Tail-lifts at rear
- Seat belts & clamps
- High back seats

Contact Brian Morris

# CHATFIELDS

LEYLAND DAF M A N C H E S T E R LDV

Mellors Road, Trafford Park, Manchester.

**TEL: 0161 877 9311**

58 PART OF SANDERSON/BRAMALL MOTOR GROUP PLC ONE OF BRITAIN'S LARGEST CAR DEALER GROUPS

## TT Pylon

Don't be shocked...

Blatchford's unique TT (telescopic and torsional) Pylon incorporates axial compression and a torque absorber in one compact package.

A maximum movement of 13mm ensures smooth vertical deceleration at heel strike and an improved push-off.

More comfort for any lifestyle.

- 30° of rotation in each direction
- 8mm vertical travel during normal walking
- Suits all 35mm foot/ankle assemblies
- Connects to any Endolite male pyramid fitting
- Weight 0.48 g

Refer to your prosthetist

...Let Endolite TT smooth the way

Chas. A. Blatchford & Sons Ltd

Lister Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG22 4AH

Telephone: 01256 465771 Facsimile: 01256 479705

### CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

British Agencies for Fostering and Adoption:

<http://www.vois.org.uk/baaf>

National Children's Bureau (NCB):

<http://www.ncb.org.uk>

NCH Action for Children:

<http://www.nchaic.org.uk/index.html>

### INFORMATION

British Council of Disabled People:

<http://www.bcodp.org.uk>

Disabilities Information Resources (DNIF):

<http://www.dinf.org>

Everybody's Hotel Directory:

<http://www.everybody.co.uk>

National Council for Voluntary Organisations:

<http://www.vois.org.uk/ncvo>

National Lotteries Charity Board:

<http://www.nlcb.org.uk>

UK Charities:

<http://www.uk-charities.org>

### SPORT

National Wheelchair Tennis Association:

<http://info.lboro.ac.uk/research/paad/wheelpower/tennis.htm>

Sportability:

<http://www.sportability.org>

### Video top five

1. **THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY** (Fox Pathé):

Cameron Diaz in slapstick, un-PC, comedy.

2. **THE TRUMAN SHOW** (CIC):

All eyes on Jim Carey in this surprise hit.

3. **LETHAL WEAPON 4** (Warner):

The latest, and hopefully the last, in this tired series.

4. **LOCK STOCK AND TWO SMOKING BARRELS** (Polygram):

East End gangster hit starring football hard man Vinnie Jones.

5. **MERCURY RISING** (CIC):

Predictable thriller starring Bruce Willis.

Chart supplied by MIRB.

Word-for-word captions.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Empowerment

7. Terrace 8. Tito 9. Allied

forces 12. Così Fan Tutti

15. Neon 16. Esoteric

17. Miltonic 18. Snipe

DOWN: 1. Entrance

2. Paralysis 3. Whale of a time

4. Roe 5. Enter 6. Topspin

10. Funeral 11. Cute

13. Uncool 14. Torrid 16. Even



ENDOLITE



# A new way of buying a secondhand converted vehicle - Simpler by choice

## DATA SHEET

### Nissan Prairie Mk I

A TIMELESS CLASSIC



There are two types of conversion available, the standard roof model which retains the original roof line of the car, and the raised roof which gives headroom of 58" (1470mm). Some converted models have fitted extras such as the Brotherwood Transfer Beam or Infill Seat.



All SECOND HAND cars undergo a full inspection and refurbishment programme on arrival at the factory, and are sold with a parts and labour warranty.

For more information please phone or e-mail for a full list of second hand cars.



**BROTHERWOOD**  
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Brotherwood Automobility Ltd, Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 6QP  
Tel: (01935) 872603 • Fax: (01935) 872853 • e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com

The Brotherwood Conversion of the Mk I Nissan Prairie has been universally acclaimed by all concerned with the welfare and transport of people confined to wheelchairs.

As well as private owners, the extensive list of users extends to Hospitals, Health Authorities, Residential Homes, and "Dial-A-Ride" Organisations.

The simple wheelchair access and customised seating options have established it as a classic in the field of car conversions.



Internal Headroom (Raised Roof): 1470mm / 58"  
Internal Headroom (Standard Roof): 1358mm / 53 1/2"  
Passenger Area Length: 1678mm / 66"  
Passenger Area Width: 755mm / 29 1/2"

(N) 1995 VW Caravelle 1.90 CL, blue

(N) 1995 Nissan Vanette Cargo 2.30 tail-lift

(N) 1995 Nissan Vanette Cargo 2.30 tail-lift

(N) 1990 Nissan Prairie MkII 2.0 SLX

tone grey, raised roof 59" headroom

blue (M) 1994 Nissan Serena 1.6LX

blue (N) 1995 Nissan Serena 1.6LX

(N) 1991 Nissan Prairie MkII 2.0 SLX

tone grey, raised roof 59" headroom

All grade 'B' vehicles are fully inspected in our workshops. The paintwork has been tidied receive a full service and new MOT. A new restraint system is fitted and the interior is thoroughly and sold with a 3 months parts & labour warranty.

(J) 1992 Fiat Fiorino

(E) 1987 Nissan Prairie MkI

standard roof 54" headroom

1988 Nissan Prairie MkI SGL

standard roof 54" headroom

(E) 1988 Nissan Prairie MkI

L raised roof 59" headroom

1987 Nissan Prairie MkI SGL

raised roof 59" headroom

1995 Vauxhall Combo 1.4

1989 Nissan Prairie MkII

LX

raised roof 59" headroom

Nissan Prairie MkII SLX

standard roof 54" headroom

Nissan Prairie MkII SLX

raised roof 59" headroom

Nissan Prairie MkII SLX

headroom, Automatic

Nissan Prairie MkII LX

roof 54" headroom

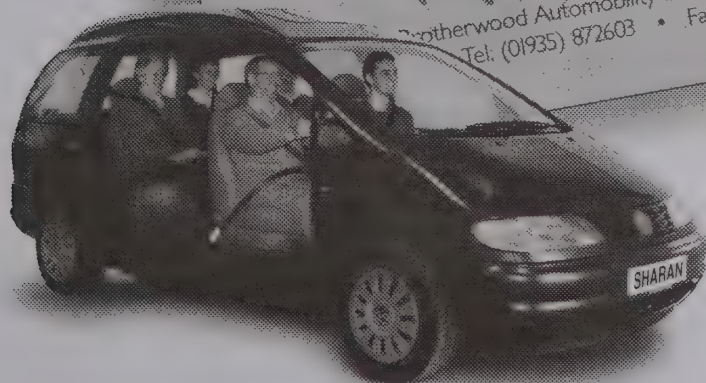
VW Caravelle, tail-lift

raised roof 59" headroom, Automatic

(N) 1997 VW Sharan Carat, raised roof 59" headroom

**Ring 01935 872603 for list of secondhand conversions**

New cars supplied fully converted • Customer after sales support and buy-back service • Short & long term Hire or Contract Lease



Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP  
Telephone: 01935 872603 • Fax: 01935 872853  
• e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com •



**BROTHERWOOD**  
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED



Photography

Graham Bool

*Narben*, by the German artist Detlef Henrichs, at the Photofusion Gallery in Brixton, London, is a selection of portraits, largely autobiographical, of people who have suffered the social stigma and the terrible effects of burns. The style is strictly non-glamorous, unpretentious and very definitely “in your face”.

It is impossible to ignore the injuries as the technique of using 10x8in film and careful lighting reveals detail of outstanding clarity.

Some images I did not care for, but several stood out.

“Hans Jurgen’s Back, Koln 1995”, reveals the most extraordinary form, variety of colouring and texture. It is more like a science fiction landscape than a person’s skin.

“Christine Koln 1995” is of a girl in a “dying swan” pose, her face hidden from the viewer.

In your face images

Christine’s injuries are extensive and, for me, this was a highly charged image.

“Hug, Koln 1995”, contrasting burnt and unburnt tissue, has an air of “beauty and the beast”, while “Shirley and Julie San Rafael 1991” demonstrates an unswerving, undying love between two people.

Henrichs, badly injured in an explosion in 1971, knows and understands his subject matter. Whatever your views on disfigurement, go and see it – your eyes will be opened.

Do not be deterred by a single very steep staircase to the first floor gallery. There’s a notice advising disabled users of alternative access via a lift in an adjacent property.

The gallery is level, brightly lit, with seating for visitors. There is an accessible toilet.

*The exhibition runs until 15 May, tel: 0171-738 5774*



Skin texture: burnt and unburnt skin contrasted in “Hug, Koln 1995”

Television

Paul Darke

*Sixth Happiness* (BBC2, March 21), a BBC film, was about a guy with brittle bones



in India with an indiscriminate sexual bent. Disability sexuality is rarely shown, so a film with both gay and straight sex was potentially rather fun. Sadly, it was poorly directed and acted, and did not have the courage of its convictions about sexuality.

It tried to be funny, but was not half as funny as *Hodde and the Healer* (Channel 4, 23 March), a one-hour documentary. In examining Glenn Hodde’s relationship with his healer, not only was football’s name taken in vain, so was disability.

*Designer Babies* (BBC1, 7 April), a vacuous glossy magazine of a documentary, continued the marketing campaign for the introduction of genetic engineering and the destruction of disabled people. It effectively did this by creating a selection of nice little scare stories (mutant babies), so that genetics is supported but put under the guise of control and consensus.

There has been some great comedy on this month featuring disability. A repeat of the Christmas special *Knowing me, Knowing Yule...* with Alan Partridge (BBC2, 7 April), *Smack the Pony* (Channel 4, 9 April), and *Frasier* (Channel 4, Friday evenings).

Alan Partridge and *Smack the Pony* (with an all female team) are full of good comic sketches that are astute, well written and have a finely tuned eye for the absurd. And *Frasier*, with his elderly dad, is always a joy to watch. Unlike *Simon’s Journey* (BBC1, 8 April), a piece of hagiography that told us nothing about the real Simon Weston, the severely scarred Falklands war hero. Weston said at one point that he did not want to be a stereotype. Well, I hope he didn’t watch this documentary. *Ironside* (BBC1, weekdays), has more insight into the experience of disability in a single episode than *Simon’s Journey* did.

Finally, *Rhinoceros* (ITV, 11 April), was a two-hour drama about a lad with learning difficulties who was trying to be independent as his parents fall in love again. It could not be worse; it tried so hard yet was so unaware.

Film

Michael Turner

It seems almost apt that the subject of the film *Gods and Monsters*, James Whale, should have experienced a disability in his later years having directed the



A sketchy monster

first Hollywood version of *Frankenstein*, which still stands as an effective film about disability and difference.

Unfortunately, good as *Gods and Monsters* is, it does not match *Frankenstein* in terms of disability. The film picks up Whale’s life story when he has just returned home from hospital having had a stroke – a plot device on which to hook

flashback scenes of his earlier life and indicate his decline.

But neither the plot nor Ian McKellen’s otherwise excellent performance as Whale do enough to show the character sliding into despair. He does experience considerable frustration and distress as his mind wanders, but the conclusion seems a little too abrupt.

While Whale confronts and reconciles the “gods and monsters” in his life, McKellen’s performance actually infuses the character with a real zest for life and is the source for much of the poignancy, charm and humour of the film. He is ably assisted by Lynne Redgrave as his housekeeper-cum-carer and Brendan Fraser as the young gardener he befriends



Twosome: McKellen and Fraser

and pursues unsuccessfully for a sexual liaison.

The film certainly challenges the idea that disabled and older people have no interest in sex. In fact, if anything, it goes a little too far the other way.

*Gods and Monsters* stands on the strengths of its three leading performers. It needed a tighter plot and might have been a little less negative about disability.

Lord Mayor Treloar School  
Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4LA

Lord Mayor Treloar School offers, to young people with physical and learning disabilities aged 7-16, full National Curriculum access, an extensive range of subjects to GCSE, the Certificate of Educational Achievement, individual programmes delivered by specialist staff and a unique interdisciplinary programme for students with cerebral palsy. Support is provided from therapy and medical teams, careers service, counselling and rehabilitation engineering.



The overall aim is to help students work towards their maximum potential and to enhance their independence and social skills in preparation for further education and adult life.

Many students continue with further education at the nearby Lord Mayor Treloar National Specialist College. Both School and College are supported by the Treloar Trust. For further information on School and College, or to arrange a visit, please contact Helen Burton, Admissions Officer, on (01420) 547425.

For a copy of the prospectus, or to arrange a visit, please fill in this form and send it to: Helen Burton, Dept DN05, Lord Mayor Treloar School, Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4LA.

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Postcode: .....  
Telephone: .....

Need a break for yourself or your carer?  
if so

Helen Ley House

providing respite care for people with multiple sclerosis offers you

- \* First class personal attention
- \* Qualified nursing staff at all times
- \* All single rooms
- \* Varied choice of menu including special diets
- \* Views of open countryside
- \* Daily outings and other leisure activities
- \* Physiotherapy, Aromatherapy and Reflexology
- \* Hairdressing service available on site
- \* Transport service from Midlands possible
- \* Competitive rates

Still interested?

Then write or telephone: The Helen Ley Home,  
Bericote Road, Blackdown, Leamington Spa  
CV32 6QP. Tel: (01926) 313550, Fax: (01926) 888972  
E-mail: [mngr@helenley.org.uk](mailto:mngr@helenley.org.uk)  
Reg. Charity No. 288362

A warm welcome awaits all our guests old and new



# And Heather makes four

**DisabilityNOW**

The Freedom in Focus photography competition has another judge and more prizes

Creating opportunities with disabled people

**LEONARD CHESHIRE**



Judge and prize presenter, Heather Mills

Heather Mills, model, tv presenter – she's currently co-presenting *That's Esther* – and European charity worker, is to be a judge of the Freedom in Focus national photography competition. She will also present the prizes at a reception at the Photographers' Gallery in London, on 29 September.

She joins three other judges: the Earl of Lichfield (Patrick Lichfield), and Nic Hutton and Graham Bool, who, like Heather, have a disability.

The competition, sponsored by Leonard Cheshire and *Disability Now*, and supported by the Disabled Photographers'

Society (DPS), aims to highlight powerful images of disability, positive or negative. These might include access to a building or your home, transport or work; a holiday or piece of equipment that gives you a sense of freedom; a demo or meeting that signalled empowerment.

The choice is yours.

The judges will be looking for images of disability that have the greatest visual impact, are designed imaginatively and are technically proficient.

## Competition rules

1. The competition is open to disabled people under-16 or 16-and-over resident in the UK.
2. A maximum of five entries per person, prints (maximum size 10inx8in) or transparencies, colour or black-and-white.
3. Send your entry marked Freedom in Focus to David Dunn, Leonard Cheshire, 30 Millbank, London SW1P 4QD. Give your name, address, phone number, date of birth and disability. If you cannot take the photo yourself, but have directed it, make that clear.
4. Please add written permission for your entries, should one be

- a winner, to be used free of charge for publicity purposes. Copyright will remain with the entrant.
5. Send an SAE if you would like your entry returned.
6. Entry deadline: 27 August, 1999. Winners will be notified by 14 September.
7. Winners must be ready to attend the awards reception on 29 September at the Photographers' Gallery in London. Overnight expenses will be met if necessary and transport expenses up to £100.
8. The judges' decision is final.
9. The competition is not open to professional photographers or to the staff of Leonard Cheshire or *Disability Now*.



## Super prizes

- Winner 16-and-over: a week's holiday (full board) with a partner or friend at Leonard Cheshire's Park House Hotel in Sandringham (above).
- Winner under-16 will have a day of one-to-one tuition in the

multi-media workshop with parent/friend at the Photofusion Photography Centre, London.

Up to £100 transport expenses will be available to each winner. They will also receive a year's subscription to the DPS.

- Second prizes. 16-and-over: a Kodak Advantix System

Limited Edition 4100ix camera with Zoom, plus 2 films and carrying case. Under 16: a Yashica Acclaim Zoom 200 fully automatic camera with advanced photo system.

- Two runners-up: 12 Kodak films each, 6 colour and 6 black-and-white.

# ACCESS & MOBILITY

## Indoors and Out



## Euroflex Wheelchairs make it easy...

For full details call FREEPHONE 0500 618008 or send the completed coupon to



**RAINBOW REHAB**

RAINBOW REHAB • FREEPOST  
THE COACH HOUSE • 134 PUREWELL  
CHRISTCHURCH • DORSET BH23 1BR

PLEASE SEND ME DETAILS OF THE EUROFLEX RANGE OF WHEELCHAIRS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TEL NO \_\_\_\_\_



# Pop that's not frothy

The National Centre for Popular Music has wisely eschewed trivia in favour of giving you a chance to let rip, says Libby Cross

Sheffield, birthplace of bands such as Pulp, Def Leppard and the Human League, is now home to the National Centre for Popular Music, just opened in the city centre.

It's a place for music lovers, certainly. But if you're after memorabilia like Elvis's socks, or Madonna's infamous corset, it's not a place for you.

Which is just as well, really, because the centre's aim is to

celebrate 20th century pop music's great diversity by making visitors think about what it means to us.

So although there are online databases giving background information on musicians, visitors are encouraged to experience directly the power of the popular song, from jazz and reggae to punk and dance.

You pass through a series of "rooms" where themes such as

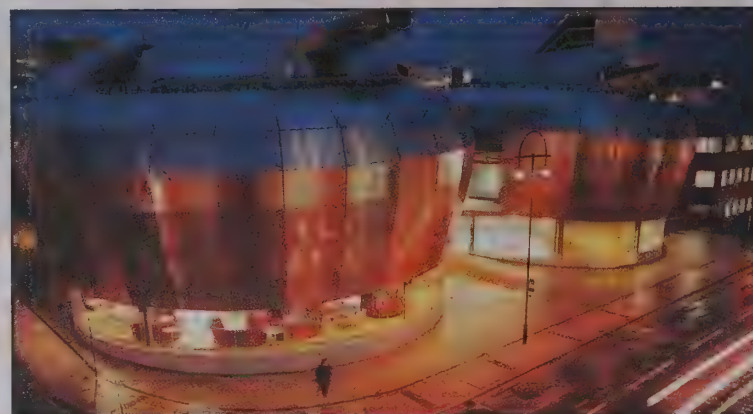


Visitors pass through a series of rooms celebrating 20th century popular music in all its diverse forms

protest and rebellion, the links between music and religious experience, and the history and variety of dance music are all depicted using songs, pictures, and movies.

One room called "Stardust" showcases some of the most influential vocalists of the century, from Luciano Pavarotti to Kate Bush, while the "L.O.V.E." room celebrates the cycle of human relationships. You might find the red velvet "love sofa" whispering sweet nothings to you as you sit to watch the show!

It's very much a "have-a-go" place. So if you've ever had a secret yen to be a music producer, then you can remix a hit song using an eight-track mixing desk, or edit a music video from footage of a Phil



Orange badge holders can park right outside the distinctive centre

Collins concert. You can try your hand at being a radio presenter with an autocue and jingles, or experiment with a whole range of acoustic and electronic instruments.

For anyone with a serious interest in how music is made, from basic principles of putting notes together to marketing the

finished product, the Centre provides a fascinating insight into the pop world.

But it will also appeal to the karaoke enthusiast, and the budding musician who wants to try out new instruments in an accessible and non-commercial environment.

All of the exhibits are designed to be accessible at wheelchair-user level, and the building has been designed with good access in mind. For people with a visual impairment there are digital audio guides and tactile orientation points, and the "Soundscapes" auditorium has resonating seats for people with hearing impairments.

One final word: the signposting for the Centre directs drivers to a car-park ten minutes' walk away. But there is limited free parking for orange badge holders right outside.

*The National Centre for Popular Music, Paternoster Row, Sheffield. Bookings, tel: 0114-296 2626, information line, tel: 0114-296 6060. Open 10am-6pm every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Last entry to exhibition areas is 3.30pm. Admission: adults £7.25, children under 16 £4.50, families (two adults, two children) £21, students/seniors £5.50. (These rates apply for weekends, bank holidays and throughout July and August. Cheaper rates apply at other times.)*



Sheffield man Jarvis Cocker: the museum has plenty of info for fans

## The bed recommended by professionals...

Try a Theraposture Adjustable Bed or Recliner Chair in your own home and you, too, will immediately appreciate the benefits. You will discover new levels of comfort.

See how the rhythmic massage helps soothe your aches and pains and encourage a good night's sleep. Each bed or chair is individually made to order so you can choose the size, upholstery and features to suit your needs. For more information and details of our affordable finance packages contact us today

**Freephone 0800 834654 now**

or write to us at: Theraposture (DN 99)  
Freeport, Warminster, Wilts BA12 8TZ  
[www.theraposture.co.uk](http://www.theraposture.co.uk)

## ...and customers

"Our Theraposture bed brought us immediate relief from backache and circulation problems. It is simply brilliant... How have we done without for so long?"  
Mrs. Meister, Knebworth

**MANUFACTURERS OF HIGH QUALITY COMFORT WHEELCHAIRS**  
1 CLIFTON ROAD • HALESOWEN • WEST MIDLANDS • B62 9HB  
TEL/FAX: 0121 561 1015

- Extreme comfort
- Excellent posture support
- Power driven/Self-propelling or manual
- Fully reclining back rest
- Elevating leg rests
- Paediatric and adult sizes
- Built in pressure relief
- Tailored to your requirements
- Full range of adaptations
- Pommel, therapeutic support headrests

**All you will ever need from a wheelchair, guaranteed.**

**Freephone: 0800 056 8759**

☐ Please send me a full information pack  
☐ Please call me to arrange a free home demonstration

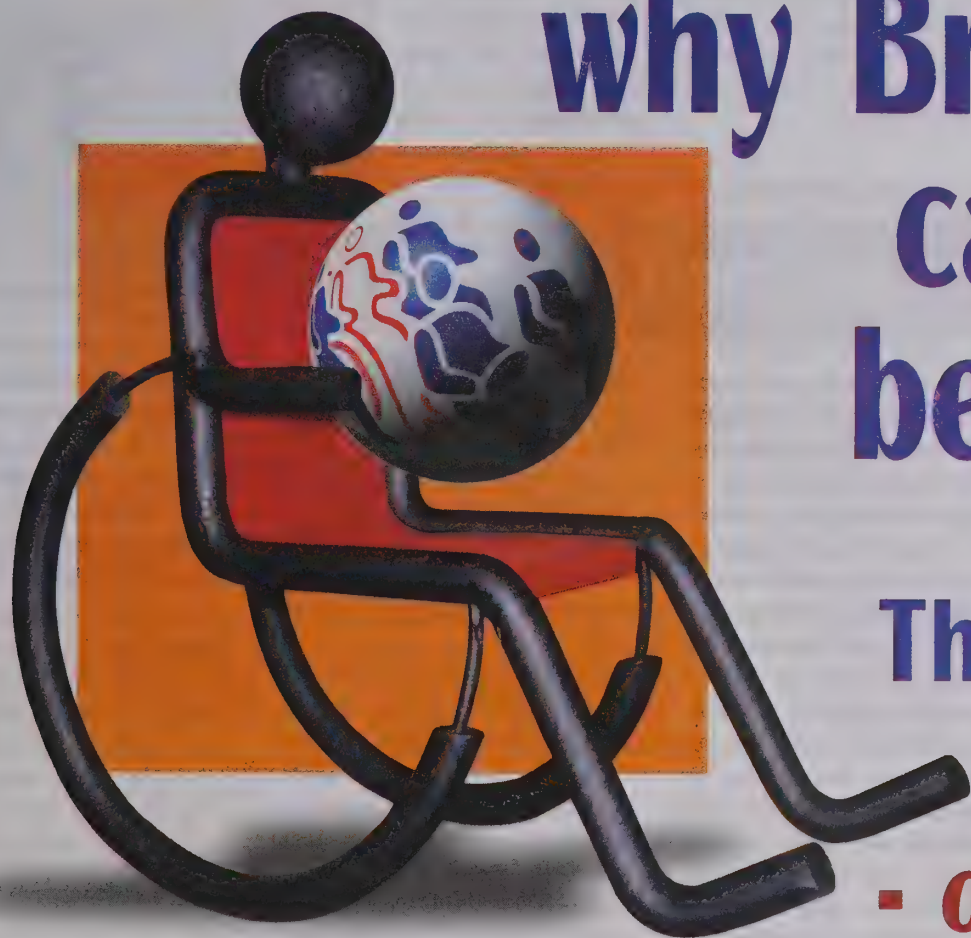
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Post code: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

DN5/99



# Ask the wheelchair user why Brotherwood cars are the best value...



The Company logo  
says it all!

- one of the family

## Citroën Berlingo Compact

The most successful car conversion of 1998

Petrol injection 1.8 engine/5 speed **£16,846**

Diesel 1.9 engine/5 speed **£17,375**

Look at the all inclusive specification to see why:-

Power steering, air conditioning, tinted glass, stereo cassette, electric front windows, remote central locking, electric passenger door mirror, immobiliser, one piece up & over tailgate, heated rear window with wash & wipe.



**Brotherwood's quality conversion  
of the Volkswagen Sharan**



## Volkswagen Sharan

from **£24,774**

The Brotherwood converted VW Sharan

- 'S' models :- ABS brakes, factory fitted

alarm system, electric operated/  
heated mirrors, heated windscreen.

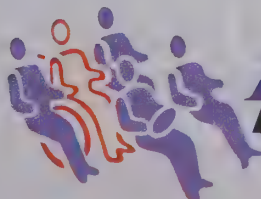
**THE ONLY ADAPTED VEHICLE IN THE U.K.  
WITH V.C.A. TYPE APPROVAL - No. LC326/A/027.**

All restraints including those for the wheelchair passenger, have been tested and approved to the highest European M1 standard.

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP

Telephone: 01935 872603 • Fax: 01935 872853

• e-mail: sales@brotherwood.com •



**BROTHERWOOD**  
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED





Dan Batten casts his keen eyes over more useful gadgets and gismos

If you want to keep the bad guys out of your house, but find setting a traditional alarm a chore, you could give the Psiclone the once over. The alarm reacts to changes in air

pressure when a door or a window is forced open by an intruder. The device sets off a standard alarm sound, and then dials a series of pre-programmed numbers to alert people of the break-in. These can include a direct call to a 24-hour Psiclone monitoring station, which can programme the system for you. The system costs £152.60 and is available from Secure Protection, tel: 0870-122 3346.

I know I have written a lot about the products of the American company Maddak, but when they're so good I just can't ignore them. This month there is the new Exer-Twist exerciser, a device you twist in your hands to help develop agility and muscle tone in your wrists and forearms and to strengthen your grip. Tension can be altered to increase or reduce resistance. There's also the Sit and Ride Ambulatory Aid (above), for children and adults weighing up to 175lbs. It's a seat on wheels with side-bar handgrips. Anyone who has problems with walking can sit on the the seat, hold on to the handgrips and propel themselves forward with their feet. The adjustable sling caters for people of different heights. For more information, contact Maddak, 6 Industrial Road,

Pequannock, NJ, USA, or take a look at their web site: [www.maddak.com](http://www.maddak.com).

If you enjoy pottering around in the garden, but hate that most tiresome of tasks, mowing the lawn, the Robomow could be for you. An operator-free machine, it uses "smart" technology called Sharpscan to cut the lawn, including the edges. It recycles the cut grass and puts perfect lines into your lawn. It recognises when objects are in the way and can avoid them without deviating from its path and hacking at your prize roses. It's quite expensive at £1,199, but well worth a look. Contact Tim Mitchell at Friendly Machines, tel: (01844) 261653.

Having your wheels taken from beneath you due to a sharp object is no fun. But Aldine Design Services may have made our old enemy, the puncture, a distant memory. Inventor Jens Sunde has come up an airless inner tube, which he calls the Flatfree Toobz. Jens is cagey about what the tube is made from, but says it has a natural

rubber content, so it can be inflated to commonly used tyre pressures. The "mystery ingredient" is added to eliminate punctures. The tubes cost £10 each, so if you're bursting to discover more, contact Jens or Tony, tel: (01203) 351495.

If you have any new products, ideas or inventions that you would like to see included on this page, send details, including availability and cost, with a colour picture (original artwork – no brochures), to Dan Batten, Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, tel: 0171-619 7323.



**EUROPE'S PREMIER  
OUTDOOR MOBILITY EVENT**



## The Mobility Roadshow

*Organised by Mobility Choice (Registered Charity No. 1068018)*

# 25, 26 & 27 June 1999

at the  
**Transport Research Laboratory,  
Crowthorne, Berkshire**

10.00 am – 6.00 pm Friday & Saturday, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm Sunday

- wide range of adapted vehicles to test drive
- over 200 exhibitors of outdoor mobility products
- great day out for all – crèche, go-karts, skid cars, entertainment, competitions and prizes

For further details and **FREE** entry ticket contact:  
**Jan Gethings or Jacqui Jones** at Mobility Choice,  
Telephone 01344 770946  
Fax 01344 770950

# Jubilee Automotive Group

★ *Affordable* ★ *Stylish* ★ *Practical*

## THE Mobility car builders for CENTRAL ENGLAND

### New MPV 'Liberty' Range



All routes lead to  
**Jubilee**

Super luxury MPV's  
5 seated + wheelchair  
Air conditioning  
Power steering  
Electric windows  
Central locking  
Lowered floor  
Extra easy access

Brand new  
from only

£15,995

On the road fully adapted

Just two examples of  
our extensive range of  
stylish wheelchair accessible  
mobility vehicles available  
right now.

Superb quality and remarkable  
value for money is guaranteed.

### New Wagon R 'Liberty'




approved  
*Motability*  
agents



Ultra modern town car  
Compact & spacious  
Lowered rear floor  
Extra easy access  
Amazingly economical

Loads of options, inc.  
Power steering  
Electric windows  
4 seater upgrade

Brand new  
from only

£7,995

On the road fully adapted

Over 50 New  
and Used vehicles in  
stock

★ Plus

**Up to 30 days (fully insured) trial**  
*on selected vehicles*

# 0121 502 2252

**Jubilee Automotive Group, Woden Road South, Wednesbury, West Midlands, Ws10 0NQ**

**Just 2 miles off junction 5 of the M6 or just 3 miles off junction 1 of the M5 motorway**

Terms and conditions apply. Prices shown presume exemption from VAT and presume that the vehicle is registered for Disabled useage.

CALL  
TODAY



# Your stars



By DN's astrologer  
Marion Stanton

★ **TAURUS** (21 Apr-21 May)  
You will feel restricted until mid-month when a discussion with a loved one might shed light on matters. Swallow your pride and take the help on offer.

★ **GEMINI** (22 May-22 June)  
Consolidate agreements with your partner early on. To avoid misunderstandings make plans soon. Don't leave those closest out of your creative plans.

★ **CANCER** (23 June-23 July)  
Luck is not on your side, so be cautious. Trust your enthusiasm. If you believe in something, have all the arguments at hand – you might win through.

★ **LEO** (24 July-23 Aug)  
Around mid-month an impasse should become resolvable. To your surprise opposition to your plans should melt away. Don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Grab the opportunity.

★ **VIRGO** (24 Aug- 23 Sept)  
After a frustrating period you may be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Believe in yourself and go all out for that goal. One word of caution. Make sure every "t" is crossed.

★ **LIBRA** (24 Sept-23 Oct)  
Loved ones may have different plans to you. Talk things over at the end of May. If you want to be listened to more, think out your arguments first.

★ **SCORPIO** (24 Oct-22 Nov)  
If you climb down from a position you held dear at work, do it gracefully. Compromising may make you more powerful in influencing decisions.

★ **SAGITTARIUS** (23 Nov-21 Dec)  
Everything seems to be piling up due to the full moon opposing you. It will crescendo at the end of the month to a make-or-break situation. Try not to take it to heart – things will change.

★ **CAPRICORN** (22 Dec-20 Jan)  
After the effort of reassuring a close friend you could be in danger of the tide turning against you. Stick to your guns. The situation will not last.

★ **AQUARIUS** (21 Jan-19 Feb)  
This month you can begin to pick yourself up, dust yourself down and make an impact. Be constructive in your arguments and you may win others over.

★ **PISCES** (20 Feb-20 March)  
You are full of ideas. So much is happening you can hardly catch up with yourself. Have a break. Once refreshed you will can tackle that important situation.

★ **ARIES** (21 Mar-20 Apr)  
Preparation should persuade loved ones to approve your plans. A relative may turn out to be your best ally.

## Scribble pad



CROSSWORD COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS

## Candid Dan dids



Dan Batten looks ahead to his holiday in the sun

After my sojourn to Jo's in February, March was a bit of a non-event. Aside from the usual all weekend bouts of drinking, curries, hangovers and gigs, it zipped by with few redeeming features. If any were about, I must have missed them.

Even though you're reading this in May, the marvels of newspaper production mean I'm writing this on a grey March morning. Details of Lanzarote lunacy are therefore not available. However, friends have suddenly discovered hitherto unknown gifts of prophecy since hearing of the trip, and have presented Jon and I with a list of predictions.

Ian envisages that we will use up our cigarette allowances on him, buying him enough so that he can hack for a few months on the cheap.

"Uncle" Nick, Jon's landlord, has predicted a Spanish tv appearance for us. When asked why, a mention of beach-stranded mammals was made. The words pot, kettle and black sprung to mind, considering that Nick is known as "Captain Corpulent".

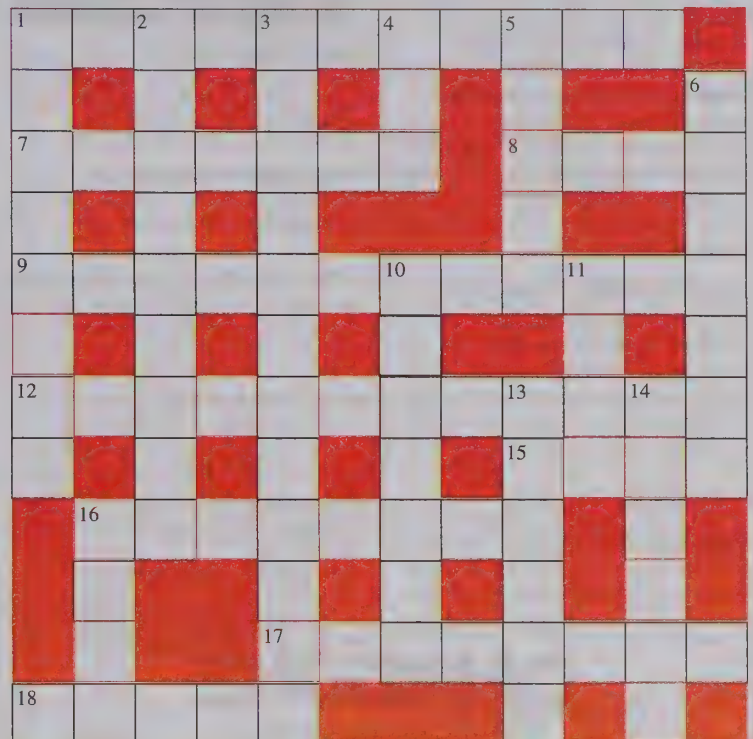
Denise reckons that sticky plaster sales in our hotel will soar, due to yours truly running the equivalent of a marathon a day in pursuit of senioritas. I am deeply hurt that she sees me at such a base level, but more so that she hit the nail on the head.

One universal prediction was made by all, that a mass drainage of the San Miguel brewery will occur. It's a challenge, but I'll give it a go. Jon will find this task intolerable, being ciderpunk himself. But said beverage is elusive poison in the Canaries. Ha! Poor boy.

## DN's crossword sponsored by

Creating opportunities with disabled people

LEONARD CHESHIRE



### ACROSS

1. Meet pen worm (anag - 11)
7. Raised street (7)
8. Post-war East European ruler (4)
9. World war II winners (6,6)
12. Mozart opera (4,3,5)
15. Night lighting (4)
16. Core site (anag - 8)
17. Type of verse named after blind poet (8)
18. Long-billed bird (5)
23. Long look (5)

Answers on p26

### DOWN

1. Way in (8)
2. Inability to move (9)
3. Thoroughly enjoyable experience (5,2,1,4)
4. Fish eggs (3)
5. Use 1 down (5)
6. Tennis technique (7)
10. Burial site (7)
11. Sweetly attractive (4)
13. Out of fashion - but still hot! (6)
14. Very hot, like a desert (6)
16. Level (4)

## BATHING WITH CONFIDENCE

### The Huntleigh Leo® Bathlifter

- Exceptionally quiet & smooth operation.
- Padding seat for comfort and support.
- Lightweight design and "quick release" system for easy installation and removal.
- Folding version available for optimum space saving.



TO ARRANGE A FREE DEMONSTRATION  
CALL 0151 236 5311



Tailoring solutions to your moving & handling requirements

Regent Street, Liverpool L3 7BN  
Tel: 0151 236 5311 Fax: 0151 236 4698



## A FIRST FOR BRITAIN!

50 stones down to 5 stones carrying capacity.

### THE ALDERSLEY EXCEL

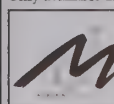
Fully tested at Blackpool Wheelchair Evaluation Centre.

**ALDERSLEY POWERCHAIRS**  
aren't just for cheeky youngsters! They are also made for slightly more sophisticated adults too – up to 50 stones carrying capacity if required!



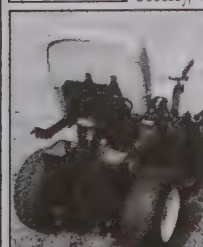
ALL CHAIRS HAVE SUSPENSION FOR COMFORT AND CAN BE CUSTOMISED TO SUIT THE INDIVIDUAL CLIENT.

Only available direct from:



ALDERSLEY BATTERY  
CHAIRS LIMITED  
24-26 Old Meeting Road,  
Coseley, West Midlands WV14 8HB

For further details and/or free assessment  
Tel: 0121 520 6942  
Fax: 0121 522 4833



Please send details of Excel Range DN 5/99

Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Tel.....

The weight of the person interested is.....stones or.....kgs



Personal

**I AM AN INTELLIGENT**, attractive black woman, 41. I have a beautiful son who, amongst his many other qualities has a learning disability. I am seeking someone special who I can get to know well, in order to share a deeply respecting and close relationship of mind and body. Please respond in detail. Box No. 362

**FUN-LOVING, SENSITIVE** male, early 30s with cp. Animal lover. Seeks female, similar age for friendship, possible romance. Interests include music, cinema, shows, theatre, meeting new friends and socialising. Photo appreciated. Box No. 363

**ADVENTUROUS FEMALE REQUIRED** by fun-loving male, 33, planning to drive through France to Lourdes this summer. I would like to take a female companion for holiday friendship. Please write and perhaps we can get to know each other in the Spring. Box No. 364

**I'M STILL LOOKING** for a nice disabled lady. I am 40, overweight, have asthma and learning difficulties. Please take me as I am and I will do the same for you. I enjoy walking, eating out in quiet places and visiting different places by train. I am looking for a lady who is kind, caring, likes talking and lives in the London or Home Counties area. Box No. 365

**INDIAN MALE IN** his 40s, divorced, ohac, very loving and caring, gsoh. Seeks female, any nationality, age unimportant,

for a one-to-one relationship. So don't be shy, life is meant for love. Write to me with your telephone number and photo. Box No. 366

**I AM A** 37-year-old, totally blind male, living in the Milton Keynes area. My interests include eating and drinking out, walking, swimming, music and football. Currently not working and having recently relocated, am finding life a bit lonely and would love to meet a female aged 25-45 for friendship and possible romance. Box No. 367

Cars & vans

**FORD COURIER L REG.** Poynting conversion. Four seats plus wheelchair. 33k miles. Taxed, MOT, super condition. £6,450. Tel: 0181-979 1637.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN.** J reg, 1300cc, 50k miles, AA inspected. £6,500. Tel: (01932) 354663.

**FORD FIESTA XR2.** 1988, grey, 64k miles. One owner, full Reselco hand controls. Vgc, fsh, very reliable. £2,250 ono. Tel: (01883) 712883 (Surrey).

**FIAT FIORINO M REG.** Diesel, 1800cc, white, 22k miles, immaculate condition. Tracking, wheelchair straps and ramp included. One owner. Can be viewed at PCC Conversions in Newton Abbott. Tel: (01626) 367555 (ask for Jill).

**FIAT FIORINO, ACCESSIBLE** car. L reg, 1993, 1.7 diesel, manual, 60k miles. One

year's MOT. Rear ramps/clamps. £2,650. Tel: (01483) 233640.

**VW CARAVELLE F REG,** automatic, petrol, blue, 78,336 miles. Ricon automatic side lift, new engine, sunroofs, electronic start. Good condition. Tel: 0181-549 9144.

**ELAP ROTATING CAR** seat. Easy to fit in most cars. Assists in easy transfer from wheelchair to car. £350 ono. Tel: (01623) 822357.

**ELAP ROTATING CAR** seat, for passenger, with double sliding facility. For 2-door Peugeot 106. Offers please. Tel: (01862) 892826.

**VAUXHALL RASCAL 1991.** Semi-hitop "Interbility". Hydraulic chairlift for safe effortless access. Low mileage, 1,000cc, 5-speed, 5-door. Immaculate and rare at £3,995. Tel: 0114-262 1503 (evenings).

**PEUGEOT 806 SRDT** with Constables car-chair (front seat) conversion and electric wheelchair. Car is R reg (September 1997), 14k miles, air conditioning, metallic paint. £18,000. Finance package available. Tel: 0131-447 1851 (weekends only).

**ELAP ROTATING CAR** seat, VW Golf frame supplied. £250 ono. Tel: (01323) 870750.

**MINI, 1981, GOWERING** conversion. Ramp for wheelchair using passenger. MOT due November, 39k miles, regularly maintained. £700. Tel: (01322) 333853 (Dartford).

**RENAULT EXTRA VAN,** G reg, full adaptation for wheelchair. MOT until January 2000. Good condition, 52k miles. £3,000. Tel: (01737) 217151 (Gatwick area, M23/M25).

**CHAIRMAN FIESTA N REG.** 1300cc, white, 9,200 miles. MOT, wheelchair ramp, securing belts. £6,250. Tel: (01672) 562215 (Wiltshire).

**ELAP ROTATING AND** sliding passenger seat for 4-door car. One year old, hardly used. £350 ono. Tel: (01895) 632053.

**PEUGEOT 806 2.0 SR.** Petrol, 5 seats, S reg, 4,950 miles. Constables carchair front access system (passenger) fitted. Must sell due to bereavement. As new, £19,750. Tel: (01842) 811255.

**ROVER METRO CHAIRMAN,** J reg, 1100cc. Wheelchair access via ramp. Excellent condition, MOT. £2,500. Tel: (01858) 465416.

**FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN.** Wheelchair accessible, lowering rear suspension. One rear seat, long MOT, low mileage. Excellent condition. £2,200. Tel: (01568) 611185.

**FORD FIESTA COURIER** conversion, 1.3, petrol, silver metallic. Power steering, 13,400 miles, P reg, November 1996. One owner, genuine, immaculate condition. £11,500. Tel: (01785) 661370 (Stafford).

Wheelchairs & scooters

**PACESAVER 3-WHEEL SCOOTER,** with charger. Excellent condition, £850. Tel: (01252) 792027.

**TGA POWER PACK** for wheelchair, with battery charger. £150 ono. Tel: (01932) 354663.

**SUNRISE SPIRIT ELECTRIC** wheelchair. Elevating legrest and extras. Vgc, £1,500 ono. Tel: 0181-441 3229 (Herts, North London).

**EVEREST JENNINGS ELECTRIC** wheelchair. Good condition. £300 ono. Tel: (01604) 700154 (Northants).

**SUNRISE MOBILITY SPIRIT.** Used only once. Sale due to bereavement. Cost £1,950, will accept £1,300 ono. Tel: (07970) 932869 (West Yorkshire).

**DMA POWER WHEELCHAIR.** Four years old, excellent condition. Also boot hoist for chair. Will deliver. £500. Tel: 0121-624 2430.

**STERLING MIDI SENIOR.** Vgc, scarcely used. £1,250. Tel: (01923) 856474.

**CARTERS CHEETAH ELECTRIC** wheelchair. Excellent condition, lights, approx 30 miles per charge, seat width 18in. £3,000 ono. Tel: (01924) 403421.

**SUNRISE POWERTEC F50** outdoor wheelchair in good condition. £1,500. Tel: 0131-447 1851 (weekends only).

**SPECTRA ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR** for sale. 3 years old. £2,000 ono. For details call Kerry, tel: (07788) 484626.

**STERLING 4E SCOOTER.** Vgc, 10 months old. Bereavement forces sale. Also a custom made trailer. £2,000 ono. Tel: (01703) 368181.

**INVACARE COMET 4E CRUISER.** 13x13in seat. £800 ono. Tel: (01494) 510115.

**BOOSTER TOWN & COUNTRY** electric scooter. Excellent condition, charger and cover. £520 ono. Tel: (01793) 535510 or fax: (01793) 642596 (Swindon).

Household & family

**SLEEPEZE POSTURE ELECTRIC** bed. £400 ono. Tel: (01323) 870750.

**STAIRMATIC MOBILE STAIR** climbing chair. No fixing required. £1,195 ono. Tel: (01636) 704602.

**ALVEMA 400 PUSHCHAIR,** vest harness, headrest,ommel. New condition, only used 2 weeks. Cost £1,200, sell for £750. Tel: (01159) 563415 (Notts, evenings).

**KEEPPABLE RISER RECLINER** chair for sale. Almost new, £500 ono. Tel: 0181-788 1416.

**CRAFTMATIC DOUBLE ELECTRIC** bed. 18 months old, perfect condition. £600 ono. Tel: (01570) 471322.

**PASHLEY TRICYCLE, THREE** years old, good condition. Child seat. For sale with lights. £650 ono. Tel: (01264) 394014.

Accommodation

**MILTON KEYNES – 4-BED,** 2 reception, detached house. Wheelchair accessible with through-floor lift, 10 mins from town centre, double garage. £165,000. Tel: (01908) 665850 (weekdays).

**SEND US YOUR SMALLS...**  
...and make a big impression.  
Small ads in *DN* reach over 65,000 people for just £5 a line. All small ads must be paid for in advance. If you want to advertise, please use the form below right. Send it with a cheque for the total to Damien Vessey, *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

CAN BE DONE  
THE ACCESSIBLE WORLD

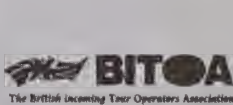
When accessibility counts for so much in a holiday, look no further!! The accommodation we recommend has been checked by one of our representatives, where possible.

Our 1999 brochure offers a wide range of holidays around the world whether you want Sun, Sea and Sand, a City Break, a Self-Drive holiday or a Coach Tour, it's all there.

Send for a copy now!

CAN BE DONE LIMITED

7-11 Kensington High Street, London W8 5NP  
Tel: 0181-907 2400 Fax: 0181-909 1854  
E-mail: cbdtravel@aol.com Website:www.canbedone.co.uk



SCANDINAVIAN MOBILITY

The New ScanBed 710

Outstanding Performance - For Increased User Comfort



The New ScanBed 710 is probably the finest homecare nursing bed on the market and offers a practical solution for both users and carers. This therapeutic profiling bed gives flexibility, extra support and increased comfort. Combining a host of features and benefits, with ease of use, good looks and real value for money.

- Flexibility. Extra Support. Increased Comfort.
- Attractive appearance and design.
- Helps retain independence for user.
- Electrically operated backrest, thigh and height adjustments.
- Simple to use hand control - adjusts to relieving positions.
- Separate backrest and thigh section buttons for fine tuning.
- Wide range of accessories available as options.

ScanBed 710 - Performance, Durability, Ease Of Use and Outstanding Value For Money.

Call the Scandinavian Mobility Helpline Free 0800 136 275 for a free colour brochure and distributor information.

Or contact Scandinavian Mobility UK Ltd, Freepost, Corby, Northants, NN18 8BR (no stamp required). SM/DN599

DisabilityNOW

Subscription form

To subscribe, fill in this form and return it with a cheque (payable to Disability Now) to: *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, or alternatively phone our subscriptions hotline, on 0171-619 7317.

Multiple copy rates are as follows:

- 2 copies £44, 3 copies £66,
- 4 copies £80, 5 copies £100,
- 6 copies £120, 7 copies £140,
- 8 copies £160, 9 copies £180,
- 10-50 copies £200,
- 51-100 copies £225,
- 101-150 copies £250.
- One year (12 issues) only

Individual at home address	-£16 (12 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£31 (24 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Professional/organisation	-£25 (12 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	£49 (24 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overseas (airmail)	-£30 (12 issues)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Those on means-tested benefits	FREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
income support, housing benefit, council tax exemption, disability working allowance, job seekers allowance (please include proof of entitlement – the name of the claimer, proof of the claimer and the benefit type)		

I would like to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you read this copy of *DN*? \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_







DN is on the web. Visit our site at <http://www.disabilitynow.org.uk> or you can e-mail us with ideas on [editor@disabilitynow.org.uk](mailto:editor@disabilitynow.org.uk)

To advertise your vacancies or courses please contact the Advertising Manager, Richard Gresham at Disability Now, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW, or tel: 0171-619 7336, fax: 0171-619 7331, minicom: 0171-619 7332.

For sale

Powerchairs Mobility Consultants  
New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 Wheel Scooters.  
All models wanted and for sale.  
Ring Free anytime  
**0500 357 496**  
*All major credit cards accepted*

**ELECTRIC MULTI-POSITION BEDS**  
**TWO YEARS GUARANTEE, £495.**  
**PHONE FOR BROCHURE**  
**(01689) 829186**

**COMFORT & CARE**  
for incontinence sufferers

FOR ALL CONDITIONS

FOR MEN & WOMEN

**Comfidri**

Superior range of quality incontinence wear for: DISCREET PROTECTION, COMFORT AND CONFIDENCE  
**FREE BROCHURE & FREEPHONE**  
**0800 413860**  
**GREEN CROSS HEALTHCARE LTD**  
FREEPOST (NEA2674) HARROGATE HG3 7BR

**STAIRLIFTS**  
Reconditioned stairlifts fitted from £850.  
Guaranteed.  
For details call **01323 508 006**

**U.S. VANS ARE BETTER DEALS**  
VanFare, USA is a tetraplegic owned company specialising in new and previously owned adapted mini or full size vans for disabled driver, passenger or group transport.  
Contact: VanFare, USA 11 School St., Essex, MA 01929 USA  
Phone: 001 978 768 6228  
Fax: 001 978 768 6404  
E-mail: [vanfare@tiac.net](mailto:vanfare@tiac.net)  
<http://www.tiac.net/users/vanfare>

**Pre-Owned & Demonstrator WAVs For Sale**

Ford Escort Chairman, 1.3 petrol, 1993 L, fsh, red, lowering suspension & lowered floor	£6,995
Renault Extra, 1.9 diesel, 1997 R, 20k miles, white, lowered floor, lightweight vision-style ramp, new conversion	£8,695
Ford Courier, 1.8 diesel, 1996 P, pas, 61k miles, white, lowered floor, lightweight vision-style ramp, new conversion	£10,995
Renault Extra, 1.6 diesel, 1993 L, 35k miles, white, economical WAV	£4,995
Fiat Florino, 1.7 diesel, 1993 L, 29k miles, red, lowered rear access, lightweight ramp, winch	£5,395
Skoda Cube, 1.3 petrol, 1997 R, only 2k miles, white, lowered floor, lightweight vision-style ramp, new conversion, big saving on new price	£10,995
Citroen Berlingo, 1.9 diesel, 1997 P, pas, white, lowered floor, lightweight vision-style ramp, new conversion	£11,895
Peugeot Partner, 1.4 petrol, 1997 P, 24k miles, metallic silver, central locking, electric front windows, lowered floor, lightweight vision-style ramp, new conversion	£12,595
VW Caravelle SWB, 2.5 petrol injection, automatic, 1997 P. Not converted yet so can be built to your specification. Possibilities: ramp or lift, 6-way seat & hand controls etc, versatile WAV	£POA
Ford Galaxy Aspen, 1.9TDi, 1997 P, red, 4-passengers, driver & wheelchair, lowered rear access, lightweight vision-style ramp, new conversion	£15,795
VW 800S/Caravelle-style, 1.9TDi, 1999 T, Green, lowered rear entrance, lightweight vision-style ramp, luxury transport with many extras	£18,995

All the above vehicles come with our Comprehensive Used Vehicle Warranty.

**Gleneagles** 95, Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife KY15 4LG  
Tel: (01334) 657722 Fax: (01334) 657711

**ENJOY FREEDOM**  
on the road with...

**M&J Mobility**  
Expert Advice • Service & Repairs • Free Demonstrations

● The new Autochair  
● Electric person lifts  
● Wheelchair/Scooter hoists  
● Rotating car seat  
● Hand controls

**RING TODAY FOR INFORMATION PACK**  
**01703 873800**

**Notability**

M&J Mobility, Unit 37, New Forest Enterprise Centre, Rushington Business Park, Totton, Hants.

Recruitment (also on pages 37 & 38)

**LONDON HAZARDS CENTRE**

The London Hazards Centre is seeking to recruit two experienced health and safety specialists for its Voluntary Sector Training Project to deliver training and advice to groups throughout London. These posts are funded for two years by the National Lottery Charities Board.

**TRAINING/ADVICE WORKERS**  
**Post 1** will be responsible for continuing to develop contacts with local voluntary organisations on a London-wide basis, designing and delivering health and safety training modules in consultation with local groups, and developing and running advice surgeries on H&S policy development and implementation.  
**Post 2** will be responsible for delivering health and safety training courses and running advice surgeries for local voluntary sector organisations. (This post is available to job sharers with or without a partner.)

**Annual salary £23,917 including London Weighting.**  
Details and application forms available from: **London Hazards Centre Trust Ltd., Interchange Studios, Dalby Street, London NW5 3NQ. Telephone 0171-267 3387.**  
**Closing date for completed application forms: Friday 30 April.**  
**Interview date: Friday 14 May 1999.**  
The Centre is funded by the London Borough Grants.

**National Co-ordinator**  
**£13,916 - £14,970**

Phab is a registered charity which aims to promote awareness of disability issues by working with both disabled and non-disabled people.

Phab has received funding from the DFEE for a scheme to enable disadvantaged young people to develop their self-confidence and to equip them with life and social skills. It will ensure that disabled young people are training alongside non-disabled people using peer group educational methods. Initially for three years, the project will aim to help young people to sustain independent living without becoming socially excluded.

We are looking for an experienced person with first rate management skills to co-ordinate the project. Responsible to the Director of Operations, you will establish, manage, lead and develop the project with the help of two part-time regional co-ordinators.

You will be a strong communicator and must be able to demonstrate integrity and professionalism at all levels. You will have a relevant qualification, team management experience and direct experience with young people.

For further information and an application form, contact:  
Director of Operations, Phab, Summit House, Wandle Road, Croydon CR0 1DF.  
**Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 30 May 1999.**  
Phab is an equal opportunities employer Registered Charity No. 283931

**GREATER MANCHESTER coalition of disabled people GMCDP**

The Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People is recruiting for an  
**INFORMATION WORKER**  
NJC Scale 6, £16,233 pro rata, 21 hours per week, £9,740 actual

GMCDP are seeking a part-time Information Worker with knowledge of the Disabled People's Movement and disability issues. The successful candidate would need to be able to develop and maintain the extensive information base of GMCDP, and make appropriate information available to members and outside bodies through the production of a monthly Information Bulletin, direct contact and telephone or written enquiries. The post will also involve work around production of "Coalition" magazine and developing the information/publications project within GMCDP.

Requests by phone will not be accepted, please send for information, stating if Braille, tape or large print is required, to:

GMCDP, Carisbrooke, Wenlock Way, Gorton, Manchester M12 5LF.  
**Closing date for applications is 4pm on 14 May 1999.**  
**Interviews week commencing 24 May 1999.**  
**Please do not send a CV.**  
**ONLY DISABLED PEOPLE NEED APPLY.**

**GALWAY BAY – REPUBLIC OF IRELAND**  
Brandy Harbour cottage apartments. 2 luxury 2-bed apartments. One wheelchair accessible, on sea front in scenic area. 20 mins from city of Galway. Ideal for touring the West of Ireland.  
Irish Tourist Board 3 Star.  
**Tel: 00 35391 796491**

**WHEELING AROUND THE ALGARVE**

Self Catering villas and cottages, hotels, B&B, car hire with hand controls, adapted vans, etc. Scuba Diving courses and other sporting and leisure facilities.

**David Player, Wheeling Around The Algarve**  
Tel: 00 351 89 393636 Fax: 00 351 89 397448  
E-mail: [dave@player.pt](mailto:dave@player.pt) Website: <http://www.player.pt>

**Aspire**  
Association for spinal injury research, rehabilitation and integration

To work as part of the expanding Aspire training team based at the Aspire National Training Centre in Stanmore, Middlesex. Work concentrates on creating opportunities for people with a spinal cord injury and other physical impairments in a variety of fields. Aspire works in various partnerships to create and deliver a range of training courses that can assist in everything from essential self-confidence to finding the right work or leisure pursuit. This dynamic post will be responsible for helping to expand this programme with an emphasis on consultation with clients and adherence to the highest quality standards at all times.

**Sports Development Officer for Disabled People**  
**Ref: SDO/TT/SC499, £14,000 (starting), 35 hours per week, 3-year fixed term**

You will need:  
✓ Knowledge and experience of sports development  
✓ To understand the benefits of partnership work  
✓ To be self-directed  
✓ To be able to operate in meetings  
✓ To possess at least one Governing Body coaching award  
✓ Skills in developing sports clubs  
✓ Excellent communications skills, preferably with experience of working with disabled people

Aspire encourages disabled people with suitable experience to apply.

All enquiries to Frances Spiegel, 0181-420 6709 or Spencer Holmes, 0181-420 6712. Applications and CVs to be sent to the address printed below. Aspire is committed to Investors in People.

Aspire National Training Centre, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LP  
Deadline for applications 7 May 1999.

**For over 30 years ICD has been placing skilled workers in development projects and currently has 120 professionals working overseas.**

**Therapist (Physio or OT) to promote and develop community based rehabilitation services, Namibia.**

An experienced professional is required to promote and capacity build community based rehabilitation services at a district level within the Katima region. The post holder will also have responsibility for the training and supervision of staff. You should be a qualified therapist with experience of working in a variety of settings including paediatrics, community and training. You must be able to demonstrate a good understanding of the effective organisation of community based rehabilitation services and their management and the ability to promote these with the central government ministry.

**Resource Workers, experienced in working with children with disabilities either as a physio or OT or specialised disability work, Zimbabwe.**

Working with branches of the national association, the Resource Workers will be responsible for developing the parent's awareness of their children's disabilities and also for helping to develop a strong parent's organisation.

You should have three year's experience of working with children with disabilities/learning difficulties, either from a background in health, education or specialised disability work, as well as have the ability to carry out a strengthening role with parent's groups.

**ICD offers a comprehensive benefits package and posts are a minimum of two years. For further information/application form call ICD on 0171-704 1738, or e-mail [Maureen@ciir.org](mailto:Maureen@ciir.org), or write to Unit 3, Canonbury Yard, 190a New North Road, London N1 7BJ. Closing date: 14 May 1999.**

**ICD is a department of CIIR. Registered Charity No. 294329.**

Holidays

**PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL "Holiday Care Award Winners"**  
Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.  
Please ring or write for colour brochure.  
**R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617**

**ODDICOMBE HALL HOTEL**  
Provides an excellent holiday for the disabled person and their family. We have full disabled facilities and are able to cater for organised parties. All wheelchair accessible rooms open on to a private garden with conservatory and have breathtaking sea views. Private car park with unloading at entrance to the hotel. Open all year.  
Why not escape and relax at delightful Babbacombe, Torquay? Category 2.  
Special 3-4 day breaks Nov-April. Discount for group bookings. Tel: (01803) 313457.

Courses (also advert on page 38)

**Channel 4 TV Skills for Disabled People**

Are you disabled? Want to work in TV? What's stopping you?

Channel 4 is offering 10-12 places on a short course designed for disabled people who have no experience of the TV industry but a burning ambition to work in it - either on screen or behind the camera.

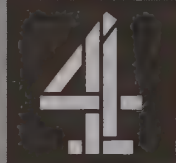
A four-day course combining tuition and practical work will provide basic instruction in each stage of factual and entertainment (not drama) programme making, including writing and pitching a programme proposal, producing, researching, directing, presenting, camera skills and editing. This will be followed by a five-day mentoring period when each trainee will join an independent production company and make a short film.

The course will be held in London and trainees' travel and accommodation will be provided.

If you can prove your enthusiasm for television, and explain why you want to work in it, write for an information pack to: **The Human Resources Department, Channel 4 Television, 124 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2TX.**

Please quote ref: AW/01  
**Closing date for information packs: Friday 28 May 1999.**

**CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION**



Continued on page 37



Recruitment (also pages 36 & 38)



**The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

**The national charity for everyone affected by MS - working for better care and the eradication of MS**

This is a new appointment for the MS Society. It provides an opportunity to develop your career by assisting the Human Resources function in establishing sound practices in an expanding organisation. You will play a key role in maintaining computerised records, running reports from the Visual Personnel database, as well as supporting managers in recruitment, induction and organisational change. You should be able to combine an overview of HR issues with attention to detail. A degree or equivalent, IPD part-qualification or willingness to undertake study, basic understanding of employment legislation, IT literacy, numeracy, skilful written and oral communication, and the ability to provide services with a customer focus are essential requirements for the post.

**For further information please contact:**

Sue Kidd (Tel: 0171-610-7134) for an application form and further details about the post.  
Closing date for return of application forms: **Thursday 6 May.**  
Interviews will be held on **Thursday 13 May.**

**Human Resources Assistant**

**Salary £18,150 pa**

*The MS Society is working to become an equal opportunities employer. We welcome applications from people with disabilities*

Registered Charity 207495



The Royal Opera House is one of the world's greatest lyric theatres and is currently undergoing a major redevelopment. The reopening of the House in December 1999 will be one of the country's major millennium events. In preparation for this we are building a Box Office Team with a service focus that will deliver customer excellence and make our Patrons feel really special.

There is now the opportunity for experienced Box Office professionals to contribute to the building of a team that will be totally customer aware and be crafted to ensure that the Royal Opera House Box Office exceeds the best of breed, both for the millennium and beyond. To help us create this special team, we are looking for highly talented individuals.

**Box Office Team**

Co-ordinator - Finance  
Premium Sales Leader  
Premium Sales Assistants  
Sales Assistants (Full/Part Time)

In all cases you must have worked a minimum of 12 months in an arts related box office and have proven track record of providing customer handling skills of the highest quality. Numeracy, computer literacy - Windows 95 (plus MS Excel for the Co-ordinator role) - and the ability to use an in-house computerised ticket production system are essential as is a good standard of written and verbal English and the ability to work well with people at all levels. Fluency in a second language would be desirable but is not essential.

All roles involve shift work (including weekends).

This is an unique opportunity, at an historic moment in time. If you'd like to be part of it please send a full CV stating which vacancy interests you, and your current remuneration, to: John Campbell, Personnel Department, Royal Opera House, 45 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DD.

**Closing date is 7th May 1999.**

*The Royal Opera House is an equal opportunities employer and is actively seeking to employ people currently underrepresented in the workplace. This includes ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.*

**GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

**PROJECT LEADER**

**(JOB SHARE) SCP 23-30 £14,754 - £18,608 PRO RATA 17½ HOURS**  
**LOCATION: POINT PROJECT, SPRINGBURN, GLASGOW**

The Project aims to empower people with a physical disability to maximise their potential and play a full part in the life of their community. Applicants should have previous experience of working with adults with disabilities and of managing staff. Applications from people with physical disability are actively encouraged. The post is Urban funded (PPA) grant for 3 years. **REF: SW/96PP.**

**For application forms and job descriptions**  
**phone: 0141 420 5533.**  
**Closing date for the above post is Friday,**  
**7th May 1999.**



**REGARD**

**THE NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF DISABLED LESBIANS AND GAY MEN**

Regard is the only national organisation working towards the rights and inclusion of disabled lesbians and gay men and is governed by an elected Executive Committee. There are two posts (London based) funded by the National Lottery Charities Board.

**Part-time Development Officer £11,000 for 19 hours per week**

Regard seeks a highly committed person, interested in furthering the rights of disabled lesbians and gay men. You will be working to our employment sub-group and supervising an administrator. Your role will be key in representing all aspects of Regard's vital work, including outreach and presentations. You will be responsible for maintaining existing work, continuing to raise our public profile and managing new projects.

You will have a minimum of one year's experience working in a similar post, plus supervisory skills, and some knowledge of fundraising in the voluntary sector.

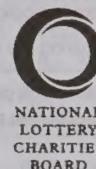
**Part-time Administrator £7,000 for 19 hours per week**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and organised administrator, working closely with a development officer, to manage our day-to-day operations. You will be the first contact point for general inquiries and responsible for a wide range of administrative tasks, plus supporting the development officer and facilitating the Executive Committee of Regard.

Ideally applicants have one year's experience working within a small office or team, dealing directly with inquiries and have sound experience of using Microsoft Office packages.

**Experience of working within the disability and/or lesbian and gay communities would be preferable for both posts. Regard is fully committed to equal opportunities and we have an affirmative action policy in relation to disabled applicants.**

For additional details and an application form for either post please contact Kath Gillespie Sells on 0181-373 9096 (voice) or 0181-840 7600 (minicom/fax) or write to Regard, BM Regard, London WC1N 3XX. Closing date for applications 28 May 1999.



**Archdiocese of Southwark Christian Education Centre**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Project Adviser: £19,500 - £20,500  
Project Assistant: £18,500 - £19,500

The Christian Education Centre is seeking to appoint an Adviser and Assistant to start implementing in September 1999 a Community Development Project for People with Disabilities in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Applicants should be committed Roman Catholics with a background in disability and catechesis. They should be prepared to work both alone and with other team members. Applicants are encouraged to apply for both posts simultaneously.

Application forms and further details available from Fr. Nicholas Hudson, Director of the Christian Education Centre, 21 Tooting Bec Road, London SW17 8BS, (tel: 0181-672 7684/2422, fax: 0181-672 8894).

Applications, with names and addresses of two referees, by 4 May 1999. Interviews will take place on 21 May 1999.

**BRISTOL DIAL A RIDE**

requires a disabled person as Director's Assistant  
(17.5 hours per week)  
Salary £11,937 - £12,630 (pro rata)

To assist the Director in carrying out administrative tasks, servicing management meetings and provide secretarial support as required. Must have WP skills at 60wpm and experience of office administration.

For further information contact Meryl Gaskell, tel: 0117-959 0700 (voice and minicom).

Closing date: 7 May 1999. Interviews: week of 17 May 1999.

BDAR is striving to be an equal opportunities employer, the offices are fully accessible.



**DEVELOPMENT OFFICER EQUAL VOICES NETWORK**

30 hours per week NJC Scale 5 point 23  
(£14,754 pa pro rata £11,960 actual)

*Equal Voices is a North Staffordshire based network of people who have a physical and/or sensory impairment.*

We are looking for a person with a commitment and an interest in supporting the promotion, views and aspirations of disabled people. Good communication skills and the ability to engage with people at all levels is essential.

Knowledge of health/social work structures and experience in training adults/mentoring work is desirable.

Disabled people with the appropriate skills and experience will be guaranteed an interview.

Application packs are available by sending a 55p SAE to: Equal Voices, The Dudson Centre, Hope Street, Hanley S-O-T ST1 5DD.

For further information, tel: (01782) 683113, minicom: (01782) 683111.

**Closing date for applications 7 May 1999.**

**Interview date 20 May 1999.**

**Property for sale**

**Brotton Village, nr Saltburn-by-the-Sea.**

A fully adapted large semi-detached house for sale. Complete with stairlift, grabrails etc. Large landscaped garden at the back and raised front garden. Large private drive, fgch, dg and cavity insulated. £41,500 ono.

**Tel: (01287) 676147 after 6pm.**

**For sale**

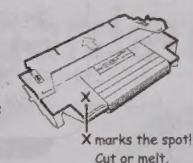
**WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE REGISTER**

**ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS LOCATING THE USED VEHICLE YOU NEED OR DISPOSING OF YOUR EXISTING VEHICLE?**

Register your requirements or vehicle for sale with the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Register and let us match buyer with seller. For full details of this service telephone **(01202) 814112**

**Cheat on toner**

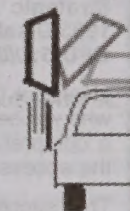
Refill your empty toner with the "Cut & Pour" method. Save ££££s. Doesn't disturb the inner workings of your cartridge. Starter kits and bottles of toner for Hewlett Packard, Canon, Lexmark, Xerox and many more.



For FREE catalogue, FREE phone **0800 376 9922 (24hrs)**  
FREE fax 0800 376 9955  
<http://www.refilltoner.com>

**HOIST**

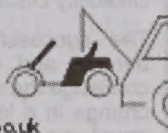
**for lifting wheelchairs, scooters and people into cars...**



**WE HAVE THE ANSWER!**

**Ring Free 0800 214 045**

*New range of easy to fold wheelchairs and scooters*  
[www.autochair.co.uk](http://www.autochair.co.uk)



**Autochair Ltd Milford Lane Bakewell DE45 1DX**

**COTSWOLD COTS**

**Build Cots and Beds for Adults and Children with Special Needs**

*We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.*

**New Products** Extra Strong Playpens.  
Extra Large Stairgates.  
Fitted Padded Play Areas.  
**High Quality** Fair prices  
Information Phone 01993 842885

**ARE YOU STUCK UP?**

We've got what you want. A full range of stickers and signs specifically for disabled people.

*Call us now.*

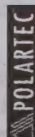
**TELEPHONE 01275 842322**  
or write: GPSP, PO BOX 25,  
PORTISHEAD, BRISTOL BS20 6NJ



\* Walking sticks \* Rainwear \* Tyres \* Batteries \* Grab rails \* Scooters \* Wheelchairs \* Riserchairs \* Stairlifts etc etc

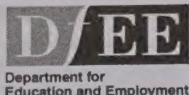
*Equipment bought and sold. Sales, service, hire.*

**D & K Mobility**, 62, Hollybush Road, Gravesend, Tel: 01474 353837  
Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3.



**Polartec fleece and ankle socks.**  
Details from Island Glen.  
Tel: (01253) 838880.





## CHAIR OF REMPLOY

London Based

This key post is vital in developing and delivering work opportunities for people with disabilities.



*Sensitivity to employment issues for disabled people?  
Senior management experience in any field?  
Commercial? Leadership skills? Good communication?  
Understanding and commitment to equality issues?*

The Secretary of State for Education and Employment invites applications for the post of Chair of Remploi. If you have the above qualities, we welcome your application, regardless of race, gender or physical ability.

Remploi is a Government supported company providing employment for over 10,000 people with disabilities. While most are currently employed in Remploi's factories throughout the UK, an increasing number are supported in work in mainstream companies through Remploi Interwork. Remploi operates in a number of key business areas: manufacturing services, packaging, furniture, textiles, healthcare, creative products and contract services. The company is an important player in the Government's Welfare to Work strategy.

The Board of Remploi comprises the Chair, a Chief Executive, four Executive Directors, seven Non Executive Directors. The Board is responsible for setting Company strategy, acquisition policy, approval of major capital expenditure and the establishment and monitoring of internal controls.

The Chair is responsible for managing the overall strategy and direction of Remploi. The role provides leadership of the Remploi Board and efficient management of its operations and business. The Chair will also work effectively with Ministers to ensure that the direction and operational performance of Remploi meets Ministers' overall objectives.

Candidates will have a proven track record of analysis and decision making at an appropriate senior management level and experience in change in management. Good leadership, communication and teamwork skills are essential.

This is a part time appointment, requiring five days per month. The appointment is for three years. Remuneration is £25,000 a year.

For further information and an application form please send a postcard or Email bearing your name and address and reference "REMCH" to:

**JON LYNCH, Department for Education and Employment, Level 5, Caxton House, 6-12 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.**  
E Mail: pba.team@dfee.gov.uk

The closing date for application is 7 May 1999.

Applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities, members of ethnic minority groups and women.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT IS COMMITTED TO MAKING APPOINTMENTS ON MERIT BY FAIR AND OPEN PROCESS, TAKING ACCOUNT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.



## THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL – CENTRAL POLICY UNIT

### HEALTHY CITIES TEAM



#### Strategic Access Officer Post for the implementation of the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act PO3 - CPU/510/07 - £23,199 - £25,245

Liverpool City Council wish to employ a Strategic Access Officer who will be responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive access strategy for the City Council to address the access needs of disabled people in the city.

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a good understanding of the social model of disability, disability equality, barriers faced by disabled people and how to create enabling environments and relevant legislation and regulations, eg the Disability Discrimination Act and Part M of the Building Regulations.

The successful candidate will have experience of identifying barriers and solutions to access problems, actively working to challenge the oppression of disabled people, successfully achieving change in a large organisation and demonstrate a commitment to equal opportunities.

**This post is politically restricted under Section 2 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.**

#### Access Support Officer - Scale 6 CPU/510/08 - £16,233 - £17,319

The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a good understanding of the social model of disability and disability equality. They will also have a knowledge of the main provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act.

The main duties are to provide general administrative support to the work of the Strategic Access Officer.

You must have relevant work experience and other experience of administrative duties (paid or unpaid), including processing payment and budget monitoring, basic word-processing and database skills.

We particularly encourage disabled people to apply.

An understanding of and commitment to the City Council's Policies on Equal Opportunities and Customer Care is essential. It is expected that applicants will participate in all aspects of training and development as directed so as to improve personal skills and to improve service delivery in recognition of the City Council's Corporate Statement of Values.

Details of all posts are available on request in Braille, large print or on tape. Liverpool City Council is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications for employment irrespective of the applicants race, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, religious beliefs, age or employment status. The City Council operates a non-smoking environment. All posts unless otherwise indicated are eligible for job sharing.

For application form, job description and person specification, please apply to: The Human Resource Unit, Central Policy Unit, 4th Floor, 60 Victoria Street, Liverpool L1 6JN, or tel: 0151-233 5310 (answerphone outside normal office hours), minicom: 0151-233 5348.

Closing date for returned applications Friday 7 May 1999.



## Essex Coalition of Disabled People

Director (commencing salary £25,000 pa)  
Full-time (37 hours pw, initial 3-year contract)

We are seeking a disabled person, fully experienced in the practical application of the social model of disability, to be responsible for developing one of the fastest growing disabled people's organisations in the country. This post is financed by a 3-year grant from the National Lottery Charities Board, although one of the duties of the future Director will be to identify long term funding to secure the future of the Coalition.

The successful applicant will have excellent interpersonal, developmental and training skills and the ability to communicate efficiently at all levels. It is also important that they have previous experience in the management and supervision of staff. They must also be someone who is fully committed to the disabled people's movement.

This is an exciting and challenging opportunity to be in on the ground floor of a vibrant newly developing movement in Essex. The job will involve substantial travel throughout the county of Essex.

For a job description and application form please contact Jill or Liz on (01245) 235606 or write to **Essex Coalition of Disabled People, c/o Homelands Retail Park, Cuton Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 5PX.**

Closing date for return of application forms: Friday 21 May 1999.



## Surrey Independent Living Council Personal Assistance Advisers

Salary NJC Scale Spinal points 28-29 £17,902 to £18,588 including  
Inner Fringe Allowance, pending settlement 1999/2000.  
35 hours per week (flexible).

Surrey Independent Living Council (SILC) is a newly formed organisation of disabled people contracted by Surrey Social Services to provide information and advice on Direct Payments to disabled people in the county.

We are seeking 2 or more disabled people (possibly job-share) to work as full-time Personal Assistance Advisers, each covering half the County. Based in Epsom. The ability to travel throughout the area and to visit people in their own homes is essential.

If you are self-motivated, enjoy a challenge and are committed to disabled people's right to empowerment and independent living, please phone (01372) 732531 or fax: (01372) 732532 for details.

Closing date 7 May. Interviews in Epsom 18 May.

*Committed to equal opportunities*

## Deadlines for the June issue of Disability Now:

Booking deadline is 14 May

Copy deadline is 18 May

## ENABLER/PERSONAL ASSISTANT/DRIVER

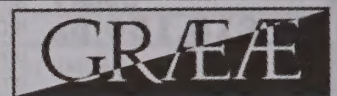
Salary £80 day (pro rata) - flexible hours

A committed, reliable and experienced Enabler/Personal Assistant/Driver living in the Birmingham/Worcestershire/ Warwickshire area is required to assist a busy voluntary trustee/company director of a large voluntary sector organisation.

- I am looking for a person who is self-employed and prepared to drive me in my own car (manual Ford Escort Finesse) to and from national meetings held in London and the UK.
- You will also be required to take overnight accommodation and have a flexible approach as hours of work may vary. The work will include assistance in an enabling capacity; lifting and pushing a manual wheelchair, carrying luggage, etc.
- The ability to empathise with disabled people is essential.

For an application form and further details please contact Nicola Lloyd, tel: 0171-619 7168.

## Courses



## THEATRE COMPANY AUDITIONS

The Missing Piece is Graeae's new 6 month training course for aspiring actors with physical disabilities or sensory impairments. Auditions are 3rd, 4th and 9th July 1999.

### INTERESTED?

Contact: Ali Briggs or Gideon Feldman, Graeae Theatre Company, Interchange Studios, Dalby Street, London NW5 3NQ. Tel: 0171-267 1959, Minicom: 0171-267 3164, Fax: 0171-267 2703, E-mail: graeae@dircon.co.uk

## Open day

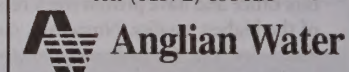
## Rutland Water open day

for disabled people & friends  
Saturday 5 June 1999

10am until 4.00pm  
at Whitwell (north shore)

Special attractions  
boat trips ♦ fishing ♦ sailing  
Chinese lion dancer ♦ model boats  
archery ♦ pony rides ♦ clowns  
and much more

free admission free parking  
Rutland Water Tourist  
Information Centre  
tel: (01572) 653026



## Services

### Marie Smith Dip. Psychol (Adv.)

Counselling in your own home.  
In or out of office hours/weekends.  
Confidentiality 100% guaranteed.  
For details: Tel/fax (01226) 351754.  
Mobile: 0441-172 555.

### 95% to 100%, mortgages

For people on disability allowance, carers, mobility or child allowance or income support, receiving maintenance, self-employed, without accounts or with CCJs, also older people.

Council house 190% mortgage, also semi-commercial.

For more details contact David Shaw (FLIA ACIFA), City & Urban Finance, 27 Poplar Avenue, Liverpool L23 2ST. 7 days, 24 hours.

Tel: 0151-924 1414 or 0151-931 3397 and tel/fax: 0151-924 0443.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.



# Flying high at the Air Tattoo



The Royal International Air Tattoo



Fancy visiting one of the best summer spectacles on offer? Once again, The Royal International Air Tattoo, in partnership with British Aerospace, will be one of this year's most dazzling spectacles for enthusiasts and novices alike.

The Tattoo will be held at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, 24-25 July, and DN has been given 15 pairs of adult tickets to give to away, worth £50 a pair.

Over 450 aircraft will be on show, there'll be an eight hour flying display, and an aerobatic display headed by Il Frece tricolori in tribute to the 35th anniversary of the RAF Red

Arrows. *Spotlight on Nato* celebrates 50 years of Nato action, with enactments, the latest aircraft, a fly past and the RAF Falcons Parachute Team.

The tattoo also celebrates 75 years of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, with an hour long pageant including a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Spitfire.

Gates open at 6.30am, with displays starting at 10.00am. For information on facilities, attractions and ticket prices call the hotline, tel: 0891-122 999. Group bookings, tel: (01285) 713456. Or take a look at the website: [www.airtattoo.com](http://www.airtattoo.com).

BRITISH AEROSPACE

## A Knightly gesture



If you want to treat yourself, or a friend, to something new for the garden, we're here to help.

DN has been given five £20 vouchers by the kind people at Knights Garden Centres, to give away. So whether you want some plants or furniture, pond equipment or lawn care, write to us.

Knights has four centres in Surrey: Nag's Hill Nursey, Godstone (tel: (01883) 742275); Ivy Mill Nursey, Godstone (tel: (01883) 742665); Rosedene Nursey, Woldingham (tel: (01883) 653142); and Chelsham Place, Chelsham (tel: (01883) 622340).

• The vouchers can also be used at all outlets of Interflora.



Interflora

### Terms and conditions

- Closing date is 31/5/99.
- Entrants must be over 18
- No proof of purchase required
- UK entrants only
- No cash alternatives
- Winners must agree to the terms and conditions
- Winners notified by post
- DN reserves the right to use winners for future publicity
- Editor's decision is final.
- Special offers not open to DN staff or associates

Send your name and address on a postcard marked Tattoo, Knights or Fist-Grip, to: *Disability Now*, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

## Get a grip on the garden

If you like gardening, or want to start, but find many tools available are unsuitable, Peta UK produce the ingenious Fist-Grip fork and trowel (*right*), which could be just the thing for you. They are giving five sets (fork and trowel), worth £25 each, to DN for us to give away.



These ergonomic tools, made of stainless steel and bright yellow plastic, have handles set at 90 degrees to the tool head, putting less stress on the hand and wrist and giving a firmer grip.

Also in the range are a cultivator and weeder, a plug-in arm support cuff so you can use your forearm for control, and a

long-reach series for those who prefer to sit while gardening.

• Unlucky entrants can still buy the set at a reduced price of £19.95 (inc p&tp) if they quote *Disability Now* when purchasing direct from Peta UK, Mark's Hall, Mark's Hall Lane, Margaret Roding, Chelmsford, Essex CM6 1QT. Tel/fax: (01245) 231811.

## What's in DN next month?



IAN BLOOMFIELD

### CONTINENCE

DN investigates the new government guidelines on continence provision.

### DISABILITY SPORT

With minimal media coverage and lack of funding, what are the incentives for aiming to achieve?

### MY FAVOURITE WALK

We check out a woodland walk in the Chilterns.

### FASHION

If you dream of the traditional white wedding, what are your chances of finding an ideal dress. We try to find out.

Plus the best news, views, jobs and offers. On sale 29 May.

## NEWSAGENT ORDER FORM

(Please complete and take to your newsagent)

Please reserve me a regular copy of *Disability Now* until further notice ☐

Please deliver a copy of *Disability Now* to my home address ☐

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

To the newsagent: *Disability Now*, ISSN 0958-4676, is published monthly by Scope, 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW. It is distributed by MMC Ltd, Octagon House, White Hart Meadows, Ripley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR.

Tel: +44 (0)1483 211222, fax: +44 (0)1483 224541.



WHEN SOMEONE FALLS AT WORK  
Staff or Customer

DOES YOUR LIFTING POLICY

Meet E U regulations?

The ANSWER is the  
An EMERGENCY

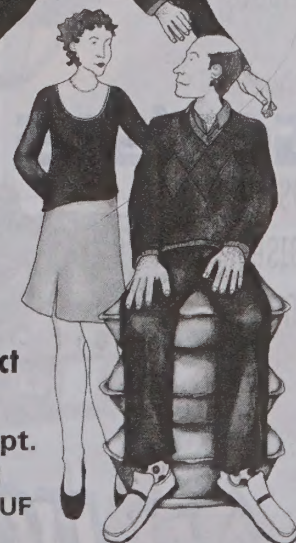
.. If Not

Mangar ELK  
Lifting Cushion



- For fallen but uninjured people
- Portable & Safe
- Easy to use
- Proven & Reliable
- Effortless
- Lifts 50 stones!
- Convenient & Compact

FOR A FREE DEMO  
Contact: The Sales Dept.  
Mangar International  
Prestegne, Powys, LD8 2UF  
01544 267674  
Fax: 01544 260287





# Disability Now

£1.60 May 1999

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

## DN PROFILE

Travel writing winner

Simon Minty p12



## PARENT'S VOICE

Why we are a family of internet addicts p19



## GARDENING

Tv star Monty Don sees centres Thrive p23



**Jobs**  
pages 36-38  
and on our  
website

# Stroke care kills

Five people a day die because of poorly run NHS stroke care, and seven more are disabled. See page 1.

Off with a woof: Guide dog Hughie checks out the Chrysler Viper sports car which his owner Steve Cunningham (pictured) is to use in a forthcoming attempt on the blind driving land speed record.



Regulars

**News focus** What devolution will do 10  
**Comment** Hoddle's healer speaks out 13  
**Investigation** NHS aids – any better? 15  
**Sport** London Marathon, DN-style 20  
**Access** Pop Museum proves a star 20

ISSN 0958-4676



05 >

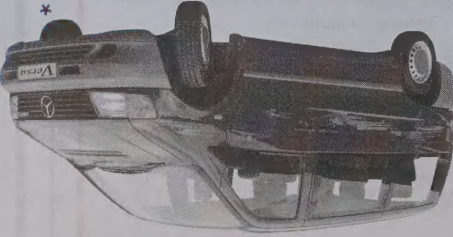
PLUS a range of used Versa vehicles are available. Prices start from £6,495  
Phone Phil Hawkins at Versa Sales for an appointment or details of current stock.

**VERSASALES**  
Widnes Car Centre Limited,  
Moor Lane, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7AL.  
Tel: 0151 420 2000  
Fax: 0151 495 1382  
Monday - Friday  
9.00am - 5.30pm

**£12,995** on the road  
Renault Trafic 1.9 diesel  
ALSO AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

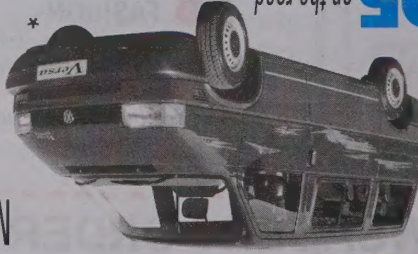


**£16,595** on the road  
Renault Master 2.5 diesel



**£16,595** on the road  
Mercedes Benz Vito 2.0L petrol

**£16,445** on the road  
Mercedes Benz Vito 2.3 diesel



**£14,195** on the road  
VW 800 Special 1.9 turbo diesel



**£13,995** on the road  
Nissan Vanette 2.3 diesel

The Versa family range of vehicles are the benchmark of quality. The trims and fabrics used in these vehicles are of the highest standard as well as being colour coordinated with soft headlinings and recess discrete lighting. With many comfort, convenience, safety and security features, the list is endless.  
For further information or to arrange a demonstration please contact Phil Beecham or Mike Jones

**WIDNES CAR CENTRE**  
Unique to

**Versa** insist on it